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Key Developments

Further on TsIK's Decision Not To Register Yabloko

Filatov Views Registration Refusal

MM3110102795 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 31 Oct 95 p 1

[Reply to ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI from Sergey Filatov, chief of the Russian Federation president's staff, followed by Lyubov Tsukanova commentary under the general heading: "Conditions for Holding Democratic Elections Have Been Created. Conflicts Should Be Resolved by Legal Organs"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Answering the ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI editorial office's question about the Russian Federation President's Staff's attitude toward the dispute which has arisen in the Central Electoral Commission's registration of electoral associations, Sergey Filatov, leader of the Russian Federation President's Staff, said:

"Of course, as a voter and a politician it is unpleasant for me that the 'Yabloko' electoral bloc has not been registered by the Central Electoral Commission. But if we are building a rule-of-law state then it is wrong to complain to the authorities about this incident. Those who are lending a political coloring to a legal clash are trying to force the authorities to put pressure on the Central Electoral Commission. I should note, however, that the present stage in the solution of the conflict is a sphere of activity for the legal branch of power, not the executive. If we follow the logic of some politicians and commentators then it would be possible to act in the old, customary way: to convene a conference and denounce the Central Electoral Commission at it. But who will do this now? The president, as guarantor of the Constitution, has done everything for the elections to proceed democratically: The date of the election has been set as have the parameters of the electoral process and its mechanism has been set in motion. But if the law on elections contains gaps and legislators have allowed serious omissions in elaborating it then they must put right these omissions. And if some electoral bloc falls into the trap of the law's contradictions and the Central Electoral Commission tries to find a way out of this problematic situation and its actions are perhaps inappropriate in the view of particular electoral associations then the court should have the final say. So that we shall not fight over it but wait for the court decision. That will be called a civilized way out of the impasse which has emerged." [Filatov ends]

Commentary

The Central Electoral Commission's refusal to register the list of the "Yabloko" association has had a bombshell effect. The electoral association headed by Grigoriy Yavlinskiy according to the results of numerous polls is among the leaders of the electoral campaign: It was one of the first to complete the signature campaign in its support and submitted to the Central Electoral Commission over 0.5 million voters' signatures of which 421,000 (that is twice the required number) have been accepted by the Central Electoral Commission.

What were the grounds for refusing registration? In accordance with the federal law "on the election of Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma deputies" at the same time as the signature sheets in support of its federal list of candidates an electoral association must submit to the Central Electoral Commission "information about each candidate on the federal list with his surname, first name, patronymic, date of birth, work place, position held (nature of employment), and place of residence" and also statements from the candidates agreeing to run for the association's federal list. It was with these documents — the questionnaires and personal statements — that problems arose. Incidentally, not only for "Yabloko" but also for virtually all associations which submitted signature sheets. For various reasons: Some of the potential candidates, having soberly assessed their strength, had second thoughts about running for the Duma (sickness, family circumstances, reluctance to change the nature of their employment) and some simply did not manage to send the questionnaires and personal statements, which is not surprising given Russia's expanses and the imperfect communications system. The Central Electoral Commission does not rule out either the unscrupulousness of electoral associations when people were included on lists without their consent. It is precisely to prevent voters from being misled and to reveal "dead souls" that the Central Electoral Commission requires that electoral associations submit not only statements agreeing to run on the federal list but also statements refusing to run, giving reasons for the refusal. This is insurance against the possibility that an electoral association may want to exclude from its list a particular candidate, which is not allowed by law. Seemingly logical? It is logical. But is it legal?

This is the subject of the dispute between the Central Electoral Commission and the electoral associations it has not registered (let us recall that apart from "Yabloko" registration was refused on the same grounds to Aleksandr Rutskoy's "Derzhava" the only difference being that Yavlinskiy has six "lost" people while Rutskoy has 86). The point is that the law does not require "refusal" statements, which gives the electoral associations grounds for accusing the Central Electoral Commission of exceeding its powers. But you can also understand the Central Electoral Commission: It can register a list only when it is firmly convinced, first, that the voters' rights have not been violated (that is there are no "dead souls") and, second, that the candidates' rights have not been violated (that they have left the list voluntarily).

We must agree that the situation is complex and it can only be legally resolved in the Supreme Court, to which the law says that electoral associations can turn in the event of a conflict. But the situation itself gives the right to suppose that the positions of the Central Electoral Commission could be disputed. Yes, it is guided by the obligation to protect voters' rights. But while formally protecting them the Central Electoral Commission is at the same time violating them since it is "excluding" from the electoral struggle an electoral association which enjoys considerable support in society — this support is borne out by the hundreds of thousands of signatures submitted to the Central Electoral Commission. What about them?

This "technical" and at first glance formal conflict caused by the imperfection of the election law could have very important political consequences. Primarily an explosive reaction from democratic associations: The Central Electoral Commission decision could drastically alter the correlation of forces in the electoral struggle and encroach on the rights of the reformist section of the electorate (as we know Yegor Gaydar has announced that his bloc may not take part in the elections if "Yabloko" is not allowed to do so; and right now, as this issue is being printed, this question is being discussed by the Russia's Democratic Choice political council). The consequences of this could by very diverse: from a drastic "turn to the left" in the future Duma to the disruption of the elections if fewer than 25 percent of voters go to them. The effect could also be the opposite if the Supreme Court decision is in favor of Yavlinskiy's bloc: It is known that scandal is a powerful campaigning lever which Yavlinskiy will undoubtedly exploit.

Does Central Electoral Commission Chairman Nikolay Ryabov understand all this? Undoubtedly. Such an experienced politician could not fail to reckon up all the consequences of the Central Electoral Commission's unexpected decision. And if nonetheless he did insist on this decision then either he is sure he is right or he is trying to enhance the Central Electoral Commission's role and his own personal role in the election campaign and in the political process as a whole. Charges of exceeding their powers have been leveled against the Central Electoral Commission and Ryabov before. But now is the moment when the Central Electoral Commission's authority will either be confirmed by the Supreme Court decision or seriously shaken. A dangerous situation: In an unstable country with an unpredictable future, the Central Electoral Commission should be beyond suspicion. Or else there will be not order but an intensification of chaos.

Premier Disapproves of Yabloko Ban

LD3010180195 Moscow NTV in Russian
1600 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Of the country's highest leadership, Premier Chernomyrdin, has given his assessment of the election situation. He is also leader of the Russia Is Our Home pre-election association. Chernomyrdin thinks that there is still time to put mistakes right. The premier also touched upon other important themes today.

[Begin recording] [Chernomyrdin] I do not think we need this scandalous story at this stage. I am convinced that we will get to the bottom of it and that everything will be alright. I very much want Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, or Yavlinskiy's bloc — the Yabloko movement to give it its proper name — to take part in the elections. I want that very much. It is a movement which has attracted a large number of voters. As a leader of a movement, I can say that I do not welcome that [as heard]. I simply do not understand it. I simply do not understand it. It is unnecessary. I think that a bit more tolerance is needed and I am convinced that everything will be alright. It is not up to me to take any measures myself. If it was up to me I would have already taken them. I would have taken them already and they would already be registered.

I have spoken to the doctors. Boris Nikolayevich [Yeltsin] is constantly still...[pauses] He is at least better than he was at first, but doctors recommend that he does not have meetings. I think that is very right. The main questions, the main ones are agreed, and as for as all the rest — well, the president must have his medical treatment. These processes must be finished. Things must be done as they should be done. That is to say, the cycle must be completed.

[Unidentified correspondent] Viktor Stepanovich, who are the power ministries subordinate to, now that the doctors have forbidden the president to have [words indistinct]?

[Chernomyrdin] While the president is ill, all matters rest with me. I see that there has been talk.

[Correspondent] Yes, incidentally...

[Chernomyrdin, interrupting] Premier Chernomyrdin has never avoided anything at any time. All issues in the country have always been agreed with the president, and the president trusted and trusts me, at least in all matters, including all questions which do not concern the government directly, I have to say outright. Therefore, there have not been any problems. Everything is as it was and it will continue to be so. [Video shows interview with Chernomyrdin] [end recording]

Satarov Blames Refusal on Defects in Law

LD3010151795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1427 GMT 30 Oct 95

[By Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 30 (ITAR-TASS) — Aide to President Yeltsin Georgiy Satarov explained today the refusal of the Central Electoral Commission to allow the participation in the December 17 elections of Rutskoy's Derzhava (Power) and Yavlinskiy's Yabloko by the imperfection of the law of the election of deputies to the State Duma.

He stressed in an ITAR-TASS interview that the law gives the right to the Central Electoral Commission "to pass a well-grounded resolution on denying registration" to electoral blocs (Article 42). Thus, Yavlinskiy's reproach that "instead of registration, the Central Electoral Commission took upon itself the permission function" should be directed not to the Electoral Commission, but to the legislators themselves, who adopted that legal act.

Satarov said that at his meeting with journalists on October 19 Yeltsin had mentioned Yabloko among the democratic movements, which he, as president, supported, and before the press conference Yeltsin had had a meeting with Yavlinskiy as leader of the Yabloko parliamentary group. This is why Satarov ruled out a possibility of a "political task," aimed at keeping Yabloko away from elections.

Commenting on accusations, hurled at the Electoral Commission by Rutskoy, who said that both Derzhava and the Rybkin bloc had reduced their federal lists by 80 candidates, Satarov said that Rybkin had to get his bloc registered once again because of it, while Rutskoy had not done the same thing in due time.

At the same time, Satarov does not rule out a possibility that Ryabov seeks to reduce the number of participants in elections in every possible way. According to Satarov, "the Electoral Commission is not discharging its duties carefully enough." The reading of the list of candidates with a criminal record is another fact proving the correctness of this statement. After the reading, the chairman of the Electoral Commission had to apologise before a number of participants in the electoral campaign.

Zhirinovskiy: LDPR Not To Take Action

LD3010152995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1405 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SARANSK, Oct 30 (INTERFAX-Eurasia) — The Liberal Democrats [of Russia—LDPR] will not take any action following the Central Electoral Commission's refusal to register the lists of candidates by Yabloko and Derzhava election blocs, LDP leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy said in an INTERFAX-Eurasia interview in Saransk, Mordovia, on Monday.

Zhirinovskiy described commission members as professionals whom he trusted, saying that any irregularities they uncovered in respect of the two blocs must exist.

"I know commission members because I meet them regularly. They try to stick to the law as much as possible," he said.

The LDP leader thinks his party's chances are now good because it has no rivals to speak of.

Zhirinovskiy is in Saransk as part of his election tour of central Russia and Siberia.

Lipitskiy: Parties Must Play by Rules

LD3010154595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1506 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 30 (INTERFAX) — The Russian Central Electoral Commission's refusal to register federal lists of Yabloko candidates shall not entail "an individual approach in fulfillment of election law," Duma deputy and leader of the Social Democrats bloc Vasiliy Lipitskiy told INTERFAX Monday.

Lipitskiy described as negative the large-scale criticism of the election law after the Commission refused to register Yabloko candidates. "No matter whether the law is good or not, no matter whether the Central Electoral Commission is good or not, one has to play by the rules if one starts to use them in the campaign," said Lipitskiy.

He reminded INTERFAX that the Central Electoral Commission had refused to register candidates of the Derzhava (Great Power) bloc headed by ex-Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy for similar formal reasons. However, at that time politicians reacted calmly, said Lipitskiy.

In its turn, the refusal to register Yavlinskiy's association for the same reasons is seen "as a catastrophe for democracy, measures against which should be taken by all honest people." This reveals the striving for an individual approach in fulfillment of the law, said Lipitskiy.

The politician lamented the fact that the refusal of the Central Electoral Commission may be irreversible. In that case, people who planned to vote for Yavlinskiy will just refuse to come to the polling stations, he said.

Khakamada: Decision Price of 'Disloyalty'

LD3010132795 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1110 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [no dateline as received] The leader of the reformist right-wing Common Cause bloc, Irina Khakamada, has suggested that Sunday's refusal by the Central Electoral Commission to register the liberal Yabloko association's nationwide list of candidates for the forthcoming parliamentary election was the price of Yabloko leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy's "disloyalty" to the country's present leadership.

"If you are in tough opposition to the government, it is not in the government's interest to forgive you even the smallest mistakes," Khakamada said.

But she also rebuked the association for "poor organization." The commission's formal reason for the refusal was that six Yabloko members who had been expelled from the candidate list had not presented letters to the commission to state that they had been notified of their expulsion and had no objection to it. Khakamada said Yabloko had failed to produce such letters within 24 hours the commission had given it.

She argued debarring Yabloko from the election would be "yet another" proof that criticism of the party list system was justified and would make obvious that "the entire party structure depends on accident and intrigue."

Common Cause has recently sharply criticized the party list system.

Lapshin: No Reason To Thwart Election

LD3010132295 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1110 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 30 (INTERFAX) — The Central Electoral Commission's refusal to register the Yavlinskiy-led Yabloko and the Rutskoy-led Power [Derzhava] movements is no "reason for thwarting the upcoming parliamentary elections in Russia," Agrarian Party Chairman Mikhail Lapshin declared in an interview with INTERFAX yesterday. With a membership of around 350,000, the Agrarian Party is the second largest party after the Communist Party in Russia.

Lapshin sees the cause of the "disruption of the election campaign of both movements above all in their leaders neglect for "rough, day-to-day organizational work." [quotation marks as received] Whence, Lapshin claims, the numerous "technical errors" found by the Central Electoral Commission with Yabloko and Power in filling in election documents.

Lapshin voiced hope that the two movements would "manage to solve their problems through the Federal Supreme Court." If they fail, "regrettably, the Agrarian and Communist Parties will lose in the election struggle such interesting opponents as these movements."

Refusal To Create 'Unnecessary Ballyhoo'

LD3010145295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1222 GMT 30 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Nechayev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW October 30 (ITAR-TASS) — The decision of the Central Election Commission to deny registration to the "Power" [Derzhava] movement of former vice-president Aleksandr Rutskoy and to the Yabloko bloc of liberal reformer Grigoriy Yavlinskiy will create unnecessary ballyhoo in the election campaign, regardless of whether the decision was passed according to the law or not.

The ordinary voter will hardly pay much attention to the wordings of official explanations of the rejection. One thing is clear for him — registration was denied to Rutskoy, the arch rival of the Russian president who led the armed opposition revolt against Boris Yeltsin in October 1993, and to Yavlinskiy — one of the most likely candidates to the post of the president in 1996.

Besides, the rejection came, incidentally or not, at the time when Yeltsin is in hospital with a heart condition. During the 70 years of the Soviet power the Russian voter learned well how to read between the lines and the brief years of democratic reforms did not add trust to official statements so far.

Russian mass media complained that the election ballot may be as big as a brochure because of a great number of blocs running for the State Duma and predicted that not all the parties will succeed to get registered. However, hardly anyone could have predicted that the Derzhava and the Yabloko will be the outsiders.

What next? Imagine both movements get registered after appealing to the Supreme Court. This will prove that the Central Election Commission did not abide by law, but was simply "throwing weight around", as Yavlinskiy put it in a TV interview. The voters' verdict in this case will be definite — both blocs will get additional support.

If both the Derzhava and Yabloko fail to win registration, the "offended" Rutskoy and Yavlinskiy will get additional points in their presidential election race in

1996. Neither of the two has concealed their plans to run for president.

Besides, if Yegor Gaydar, the leader of the "Democratic Russia's Choice", will stand up to his promise and boycott elections in solidarity with Yavlinskiy, the polls could be hardly considered full-fledged without the participation of the major democratic forces.

If Rutskoy is rejected and Yavlinskiy registered, or vice versa, Russians will have to rack their brains over such a "selectiveness" and both politicians will get a higher rating for presidential polls anyway, with the rejected politician enjoying more support.

It is the Supreme court which is to decide whether the Central Election Commission had acted correctly or not. For the Russians it remains to guess: did the Derzhava and Yabloko indeed breach the registration law or, as Yavlinskiy put it, there is "political cleansing" behind the rejection or, in other words, an attempt to keep influential competitors away.

It is to be remembered, however, that Russians always loved those "offended and insulted". Suffice it recall the rise of Yeltsin after he was criticised and demoted by former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev.

If the attempt to get rid of competitors took place indeed, the result can be completely opposite.

Rejection Seen as Threat to Yeltsin

MM3010162395 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Oct 95 p 1

[Feature comprising report by Otto Latsis and reaction by a group of Kremlin officials, and by G. Yavlinskiy and V. Chernomyrdin under the general heading: "Central Electoral Commission's Action Could Wreck Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The worst fears of independent observers, who had long warned that the inadequacy of the legislative base for the elections would make it possible to manipulate them or even falsify them, have been borne out. The Central Electoral Commission, whose leaders had angrily rejected those assumptions, has itself confirmed that the critics were right.

When it refused to register "Democratic Russia" it might have seemed like a mere accident which would be settled by the Supreme Court. But after the poorly argued rejection of the Rutskoy bloc and, above all, the refusal to register the "Yabloko" bloc, the "accident" theory disappears. They are trying to give the force of law to departmental instructions or to [mere] "discretion" so as thereby to turn the elections into a farce, as Ye. Gaydar put it.

Needless to say, the public is never told why this is being done, but certain probable motives are more or less obvious. The most immediate target is the parliamentary elections. In accordance with a shortsighted calculation, it might seem that cutting off "Yabloko" and "Democratic Russia" — after which, it is not hard to guess, "Russia's Choice" itself would quit — would be of service to the Chernomyrdin bloc, since democratically oriented voters, fearing revenge-taking, would then have nowhere left to go. It would by no means be necessary for the premier himself to have asked Nikolay Ryabov to have done this — after all, there is an art of second-guessing the bosses' wishes, so there would be no need for it, as people often surmise inopportunely.

There was possibly a longer-term goal, and maybe not just one — the choice here would also depend on the depth of the political calculation. What do such different figures as Aleksandr Rutskoy and Grigoriy Yavlinskiy have in common? Only one thing — both of them are very likely contenders in the 1996 presidential race. A short-sighted politician might fail to realize how improbable a candidate Rutskoy would be and consider the former vice president a serious rival for the current president. Yavlinskiy could indeed be a serious rival if it were expected that by June next year the democratic and market reforms were able to produce some convincing positive results. Consequently, getting rid of their parties from December's electoral roll would seriously harm their chances in the presidential elections. After all, on the eve of those elections horsetrading on alliances would inevitably begin between close political forces, and anyone who could not bring a major amount of capital to such talks in the form of votes obtained for its party list in the parliamentary elections would suffer losses right at the outset.

Finally, taking account of the past history of the chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, who has already changed the political camp he served during the reform era, we might assume an even deeper calculation. After all, both Yavlinskiy and Rutskoy are politicians who are opposed to the current authorities. And in the presidential elections they will primarily be rivals to other opposition politicians. Unseating them now means primarily helping those who will be the strongest opposition candidates — be it Zyuganov, Lebed, or someone else. At a time when B. Yeltsin's illness is again casting doubt on his reelection chances, an attempt to help his rival also seems plausible.

Finally, most likely of all is the simplest explanation which G. Yavlinskiy used on TV's "Itogi" — a desire to throw your weight around. If the Central Electoral Commission is able to determine for itself the list of political parties to be on offer to the electorate, then

Nikolay Ryabov becomes a very important political figure.

What is important for society, however, is something else — if the Central Electoral Commission can define the choice available to voters, then the Central Electoral Commission can do anything it likes, and in that event the elections will not be elections and we will have no democracy.

What should we do now? Needless to say, we should rely above all on the Supreme Court, and await and demand from it a fair and legitimate ruling. But that is not enough — after all, the elections are coming and it is already obvious that anything could happen. The current State Duma would still be able to remedy matters by adopting a law on public control over the elections. This would give voters unrestricted rights, irrespective of their party affiliations or lack of them, to monitor the entire vote-counting process. Only in this way can we erect a barrier to the manipulation and falsification which are far easier to implement at grass-roots level than at the Central Electoral Commission in clear view of all. What is happening with the registration of party lists shows that any party — irrespective of its political success — could be at risk.

Incidentally, a party or parties with strong positions in local administration could exploit and benefit from the current lack of legal protection for voters. Well, if any parties are planning to do so, we will see it from their reaction to the Central Electoral Commission's specific activity. [Latsis ends]

Kremlin Comments on Central Electoral Commission Decision

Certain observers are inclined to see a political motive behind the actions of the Central Electoral Commission in refusing to register "Yabloko." The view is being voiced that in this instance Nikolay Ryabov was carrying out orders from the Kremlin leadership.

People from Boris Yeltsin's immediate entourage comment on the situation.

Yuriy Baturin, presidential aide:

"The situation regarding 'Yabloko' is mathematically very simple, politically transparent, and legally very uncertain. The law gives the Central Electoral Commission quite substantial room for maneuver or, in other words, discretion. The Central Electoral Commission used its discretion in this case. Unfortunately, the principles governing that discretion and the removal of 'filters' remain unclear. This does not help to shape a favorable electoral climate and it creates special conditions for political publicity by electoral associations."

Lev Sukhanov, presidential aide:

"I have mixed feelings about what happened. On the one hand, I cannot imagine that the chairman of the Central Electoral Commission would fall prey to his own political predilections. On the other hand, I do not understand what legal grounds could be used to refuse to register a movement which has collected around 1 million signatures in support of it. I think that the Supreme Court will investigate the situation and rule in favor of 'Yabloko.'"

Sergey Medvedev, the president's press secretary:

"I have not thoroughly investigated what happened, and it is hard for me to say whether the Central Electoral Commission had a legitimate reason to refuse to register 'Yabloko' or not. But I categorically reject any suspicion that Nikolay Ryabov was acting on instructions from above. There was and is no Kremlin interest in removing Grigoriy Yavlinskiy and his comrades-in-arms from taking part in the elections. Moreover, the president has repeatedly noted the constructive political thrust of both 'Yabloko,' 'Russia's Democratic Choice,' and other similar electoral blocs. The president is not dictating his will to the Central Electoral Commission at all. Nikolay Ryabov is operating entirely independently, and is responsible for his own decisions."

G. Yavlinskiy — Refusal to Register "Yabloko" Bloc Is Direct Challenge to President

At 0935 on 30 October the "Yabloko" electoral bloc sent a request to the Central Electoral Commission demanding to be issued the official refusal to register the bloc — only after this will "Yabloko" be able to appeal to the Supreme Court within three days. This was stated by Grigoriy Yavlinskiy at a 30 October briefing for journalists attended by our correspondent Anatoliy Stepovoy.

The Central Electoral Commission has no legal grounds to refuse to register the bloc, he said. This action, which is aimed at undermining the population's confidence in the elections, is being carried out on a trumped-up pretext.

Grigoriy Yavlinskiy believes that certain forces needed to create a precedent of this sort involving a major political bloc. This has become a kind of indication of a change of political vector in the country, and it comes from people gathered around the sick president's bed. I view everything that has happened as a direct challenge to President Yeltsin.

As for the essence of the problems facing the "Yabloko" electoral bloc at the Central Electoral Commission, Yavlinskiy reported that he has statements from those people who were removed from the list. Definite talks were held with the all the "refuseniks" at the Central Electoral Commission. They were pressured into taking certain steps. Thus, it was initially suggested that they state that they had been removed from the federal list without notification. Then that they had allegedly been included on the lists without their personal consent. Grigoriy Yavlinskiy believes that the Central Electoral Commission has illegally taken it upon itself to decide the question of violating citizens' electoral rights. That is a matter for the courts.

V. Chernomyrdin Advocates Justice

Russian Federation Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who heads the "Russia Is Our Home" movement, believes that the Central Electoral Commission's refusal to register the federal list of State Duma candidate deputies from the "YABLoko" Association is a "decision that is at least ill-conceived and does serious damage not only to the entire election campaign but also to democracy in our country." He stated this in an INTERFAX interview.

V. Chernomyrdin expressed the hope that "common sense and responsibility would prevail and that it will prove possible to rectify this mistake within the framework of the law."

TsIK Accused of Exceeding Authority

LD3010174995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1607 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 30 (INTERFAX) — By denying registration to the Yabloko movement led by Grigoriy Yavlinskiy the Russian Central Electoral Commission [TsIK] exceeded its authority because the law on elections does not provide for the commission's right to ban an election bloc from participating in the election campaign, a source in the Russian Constitutional Court told INTERFAX Monday.

The source said he largely agrees with Yavlinskiy's stand and sees "political expediency" in the commission's actions.

He also said that the electoral law does not say anything about what to do when candidates registered on the federal list of a bloc then quit the list. Only the lawmaking body must interpret such gaps in the legislation, said the source.

He recalled that the situation was the same with the Our Home Is Russia bloc and the Ivan Rybkin's bloc. However, the commission registered the blocs.

Thus, by denying registration to Yabloko and to Aleksandr Rutskoy's Derzhava (Great Power) bloc the commission committed a flagrant violation of the constitutional principle that all blocs must be equal before the law, said the source.

Yavlinskiy Favors Emergency Duma Session

LD3110093195 Moscow INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY in Russian 0730 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] "Yabloko faction deputies will sign up for convening an emergency session of the Russian Federation State Duma," Yabloko election bloc leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy told Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy radio station.

Grigoriy Yavlinskiy thinks that "as well as acting magnanimously and nobly, Yegor Gaydar demonstrated his understanding that the point here is not Yabloko at all. What is happening is that our orientation system is being wiped out, all standards are being undermined."

"We battled against this election law, we put forward an election code, but we got no backing for it, and in the end we made 200 amendments to the law," Yavlinskiy said. "Now we can actually see what sort of law it is and can more or less imagine how the results of the elections will be summed up and what the whole thing will be like."

Electoral Commission Registers Five More Blocs

LD3010203595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1944 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 30 (INTERFAX) — The Central Electoral Commission has registered the federal lists of five election associations and blocs Monday: the Popular Union election association led by Vladimir Lukyanov, the Democratic Choice of Russia-United Democrats election bloc, led by Yegor Gaydar, the election bloc For the Homeland, led by Vladimir Polevanov, the election association of the National-Republican Party of Russia, led by Nikolay Lysenko, and the Social Democrats election bloc, led by Gavriil Popov.

So, by October 30, the Central Electoral Commission has registered the federal lists of 19 and denied registration to three out of the 43 election associations and blocs which have handed in their signature lists.

The Central Electoral Commission will continue to register the federal lists of election associations and blocs on Tuesday.

Commission Chairman Nikolay Ryabov said that in accordance with the law on electing deputies, the election associations and blocs which have had their federal lists registered, have the right to appoint one non-voting member to the Central Electoral Commission. "None of the election associations or blocs have used this right," said Ryabov.

Independents' Bloc Denied Registration

LD2710225195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1930 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 27 (INTERFAX) — The Russian Central Electoral Commission decided Friday not to register the federal list of candidates for the State Duma of the Independents' Bloc. Nine members of the commission voted to deny registration, while two voted against the decision and one abstained from voting.

Members of the commission believe that representatives of the Independents' Bloc misled voters because several candidates on the bloc's federal list also intend to run for the Duma in single-mandate constituencies.

This is the first time the commission has denied registration of a party's federal list.

The commission has so far registered eight out of the 43 lists submitted by blocs petitioning to run in the elections.

The commission will continue its work Saturday.

Rejected Parties Appeal to Supreme Court

LD3010153895 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1400 GMT 30 Oct 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The first news today is the development of the situation around the refusal of the Central Electoral Commission to register a number of election blocs and associations. Appeals have already been lodged with the Supreme Court by the electoral block Democratic Russia and Free Trade Unions, the association Federal-Democratic Movement, and the leftist-radical block Our Future.

In three courtrooms, the question of whether the Central Electoral Commission was right or wrong to announce a break in the acceptance of documents and lists of signatures on 22 October proceeded at the busiest evening hours.

The appeal of the Federal-Democratic Movement was upheld, on which Oleg Novikov, the leader of the organization, was congratulated right in the hall; and next door, the appeal of the Democratic Russia and Free Trade Unions was heard. Judge Nechayev attentively listened to the representatives of the block and the Central Electoral Committee, whose documents were read by the Procurator. At last, Judge Fizin examined the appeals of a whole group of parties of social orientation, such as the Party for Protection of Children, Russian Woman, the Rural Toilers' Party, and Christian Monarchists. They also have a problem. The documents were presented to the Central Electoral Commission building on time, but there was a delay in examining them. The finding on the last two appeals is not yet known. [Video shows court hearings]

Court Obliges TsIK To Register 'Democratic Russia'

LD3010202395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1853 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 30 (INTERFAX) — Russia's Supreme Court has ruled that the Central Electoral Commission accept all registration documents from the election bloc Democratic Russia and Free Unions Monday.

Thereby, Supreme Judge Vasiliy Nechayev satisfied the movement's suit against the commission's refusal to register it on October 22.

A movement spokesman, Andrey Frolov, told INTERFAX that the Central Electoral Commission's actions were for the good, though it had done its best to delay and complicate the submission procedure. Frolov represented his movement in court. Trying to limit the number of election blocs, the commission acted in the interests of Russian citizens who will have to choose from a huge variety of parties and movements.

However, the commission violated the law and the interests of blocs in specific cases, Frolov said. At the same time, he supposed that the commission's action was not from political motives or specifically intended against Democratic Russia.

Premier: Radical Change in Reform 'Inadmissible'

LD2810184695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1755 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 28 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, leader of the "Our Home is Russia" (NDR) election bloc, has addressed a conference of the NDR at the headquarters of the Mayor's Office in Moscow on Saturday.

Addressing the delegates, Chernomyrdin said that progress in the economy can be achieved provided the course of reforms is steadily and consistently continued. Any radical change in the course of reforms is inadmissible, since otherwise, this would lead the country to a catastrophe which will be hard to overcome, Chernomyrdin said. It was NDR's guiding principles with which the NDR began its full-fledged political life, the premier said.

Commenting on the popularity of the NDR movement in Russia, Chernomyrdin said that NDR branch departments exist in all subjects of the Russian Federation, in 83 Russian regions numbering around 2,500 members of regional councils, around 600 members of regional executive committees and 400 full-time NDR activists.

Chernomyrdin pointed out that the NDR movement is a major political bloc, including 18 public organisations as its collective members. The PRES bloc, the Party of Russian Unity and Accord headed by Sergey Shakhray, has broken away from the NDR movement, while the NDR membership continues to grow as more supporters join the NDR.

In conclusion, Chernomyrdin said that he considers his work in the government to be his main task, especially in the situation which unfolded in the fourth quarter of 1995. "I shall do everything possible to carry through this work, to carry out the tasks set for 1995 to reach stabilisation in the economy," Chernomyrdin added.

Shatalin: 'My Fatherland' Ready for Campaign

LD2710193795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1035 GMT 27 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Natalya Panshina]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow, 27 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — The My Fatherland public and political association is ready for the start of the election campaign. This was said at a briefing today by Academician Stanislav Shatalin and Stanislav Assekritov, first vice president of the "Reforma" international foundation, members of the association's leadership. They said that 240,000 citizens' signatures collected in all Russian Federation regions, as well as 80,000 signatures on single seat constituencies, have been successfully passed to the Central Electoral Commission.

As is known, the federal list of the association is led by Colonel General Boris Gromov who was absent from the briefing. The My Fatherland association itself belongs to the left center and by hoping "to pinch off" votes from the communists, the agrarians, and the Yavlinskiy bloc, intends to overcome the 5-percent barrier. [passage omitted]

Stanislav Shatalin also said that he is full of strength and he is even ready to run for the presidency next year.

Rybkin's Bloc Receives R80 Million for Campaign

LD2710225395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1930 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 27 (INTERFAX) — The Russian Central Electoral Commission decided Friday to provide 80 million rubles [R] to the Ivan Rybkin's Bloc, the political movement organized by and named after the speaker of Russia's lower chamber of parliament.

The commission provides equal sums to movements and blocs with registered federal lists of candidates for the State Duma for the purposes of election campaign financing.

Earlier, the commission provided 80 million rubles to the Russian Communist Party, Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, Women of Russia movement, Our Home Is Russia movement, Agrarian Party of Russia and the Congress of Russian Communities.

Russian Germans Not To Participate in Elections

LD2710230095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1930 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 27 (INTERFAX) — Chairman of the International Union of Russian-Germans Hugo Wormsbecher, speaking at a Russian-German congress in Moscow Friday, called for unity within this ethnic segment of the Russian Federation, but dismissed any organized participation in the upcoming Duma elections.

"Unity in the German movement in Russia is quite realistic," Wormsbecher said at the opening of the Second International Congress of Russian Germans. With regard to the existence of an alternate Russian-German movement, Revival (Wiedergeburt), Wormsbecher said he hoped that the Russian Germans would reach unity.

In an interview with an INTERFAX correspondent, Wormsbecher expressed concern for Russian-Germans living in the near abroad. "Russia's partners in the CIS are not ready to ensure dignified conditions of development for the Germans living on the former USSR territory," Wormsbecher said.

Regarding the pending elections to the State Duma, Wormsbecher said the Russian Germans "do not intend to act as an independent political force at present." He said the Russian Germans were ready to support a party or movement whose views on the problems related to ethnic policies coincided with these of the Russian Germans.

Regional Activities

LDPR Branch Reportedly Fakes Signatures

LD2910152995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1339 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BIROBIDZHAN, Oct 29 (INTERFAX-Eurasia) — The Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] branch in the Jewish Autonomous Region (Far East) has violated election legislation.

Some LDPR members faked the names and addresses of alleged LDPR supporters when raising signatures backing the LDPR candidate to the State Duma. The regional electoral commission established that some signatures had been faked and passport data confirming the signatures had been invented.

When verifying the signatures submitted by the LDPR branch, members of the electoral commission decided to visit some of the indicated addresses and revealed, for instance, that what was called a block of flats was a nursery school.

Chairman of the Regional Electoral Commission Alexey Bublik told INTERFAX-Eurasia that the signature collectors must have used the old telephone guide for faking signatures where the address belonged to a block of flats.

Bublik said that after the lists of signatures had been returned to the LDPR branch, the LDPR Moscow-based headquarters had overcrowded the electoral commission with telegrams threatening to take a legal action against it if the LDPR candidate was not registered in Birobidzhan.

Bublik said that, however, the local group of the LDPR candidate's supporters had never come to the electoral commission again. Thus, no candidate from the LDPR will run for the State Duma in the Birobidzhan single-mandate constituency. Bublik said the LDPR representatives were unlikely to be held criminally accountable because they had not resubmitted the lists of signatures to the electoral commission.

Daily Views Novosibirsk Campaign Funding

964F0229A Novosibirsk SOVETSKAYA SIBIR in Russian 25 Oct 95 p 1

[Article by N. Zubritskaya, under the "Elections—95" rubric: "The Commission's Nerves Are in Order"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

Firmness on Shaky Grounds

We are living at an unpredictable time; therefore, political scientists and astrologers err in their forecasts. Our ark is being steered by invisible helmsmen; so, the upper strata think that the oarsmen are sitting somewhere below, and the lower strata think that the upper strata are "rowing themselves." Both above and below there is a sense of danger that the elections could be disrupted, or conducted in such a way that it will be possible to contest their results. It is said that several scenarios exist for these purposes. But for every action there is a counteraction. Who is now cementing the shaky grounds? Who is coming forth as the guarantor of the conduct of successful elections? This may sound absurd and comical, but the district commissions are performing this role today.

We spent only a few hours in a period that was far from the busiest in Iskitimskiy District Electoral Commission No. 127, and gained a familiarity that told us many things. Anyone can have a change in attitude: candidates, political parties and movements, even the government, but the district commissions are not subject to them.

On this particular day members of the commission arrived from nine rayons and two cities for a meeting at which an estimate of costs was approved. According to the most modest calculations, the district needs 3 billion rubles [R]. This sum, of course, is determined by what is promised to be sent for expenses, but not by real outlays. There are 511 precincts here. They alone will take more than R2.5 billion. But so far the district has received a total of R450 million. In a precinct a bookkeeper "surpasses" R700,000. What can be done with these crumbs? Buy office supplies, possibly lease premises—and that is all. But, after all, the work must move along at full speed.

The district commission has an emergency reserve for the electoral fund of candidates—R50 million. No one today can guarantee sufficient future financing. It is obvious that with such an insane influx of candidates in Russia on the whole, a lot of resources will be expended in vain regardless of the fate of the elections.

"Of course, it is necessary to use resources sparingly. You and I are obligated to consider state money," Pavel Prokofyevich Gurtychenko, chairman of the district commission, said on concluding the conference on the estimate. "But we must not forget for a second that our main task is to conduct the elections successfully. And then the state budget will suffer less, as, in the final analysis, will the taxpayers."

A visitor who came by on this day, who had been at the State Duma, recounted a rumor about one of the "political scenarios." "Someone" planned to allocate R200 million from the budget to each of the candidates. Absolute ruin! And this "was supposed to raise a wave of popular anger" against the elections, and by inertia—against the Duma itself. This story did not cause any kind of noticeable reaction among the commission. There is a private taboo against repeating rumors here. In general members do not argue during work and do not even discuss political subjects. Very likely in order not to express sympathies or antipathies, not to "get worked up" themselves, and not to exert pressure on the population.

It is not known what it is like in other components of the Federation, but support for legality has become dominant in our oblast electoral commissions. The influence of Lidiya Ivanovna Ustinova, chairman of the electoral commission of Novosibirsk Oblast, can be seen here. During their political "impartiality," members of the commission comfort themselves with the seventh axiom of dialectics: "The historical process is developing in the form of a permanent change in the quantity-quality structure; that is, in the form of immutably changing evolutionary structures." This means that the "evolutionary-revolutionary" process, no matter how it is changed, will inevitably get back on its rails, but in contrast to a Vanka-Stanka doll, which after being knocked over returns only to its former upright position, it moves farther. We are by far not always capable of discerning and adopting the progressive aspects of our time.

"We Will Work This Out!"

The following statement can be encountered in performance ratings of the UVD [Main Directorate of Internal Affairs]: "Fearless in extreme situations." This can also be said about Chairman Gurtychenko of the Iskitimskiy District No. 127 electoral commission, who "in his spare time from the elections" works as the chief of administration of the Kudryashevskiy settlement council. He is conducting the third election campaign and, as we see, the conditions occurring in them are also extreme. There is considerable anticriminal work here also.

"We will work this out!" is the administrative phrase (almost "we will overcome," to be sure, with a nuance of contemporary indefiniteness, but with creative tension) pronounced by Pavel Prokofyevich when we started to talk about the financial difficulties which at the present moment are becoming very distinct.

"They will not permit the elections to be frustrated—this is unequivocal!" he said, as if vouching straight off for all Russia. "But we will work it out in our district!"

It is most likely that the expenses will be twice as big as those being indicated, "but very modest" preliminary calculations are fixed in the estimate. What is to be done in this case? Then you hear "We will work it out!" Someone from the heads of administrations will knock off the price for a lease and other local expenditures. The economic managers will come to the rescue and will help with transport and gasoline. "When they understand the situation," people will not ask for material rewards for their labor. That is, as happened during previous election campaigns—beginning with Soviet "enthusiastic" traditions—the mechanisms of mutual assistance and moral reserve will be switched on.

But there is also another aspect to the difficulties: work with the voters. The commission must not engage in agitating them (the candidates will do this). But it is necessary to have accessible and legal resources so that the voters will come out to the elections. Sovetskiy Rayon is especially difficult. People there are "peculiar." They vote reluctantly, but just before the elections they display uncommon activeness. In one past campaign one precinct commission chairman even had an infarction after conducting explanatory work. And now most of the critical questions come precisely from the voters of Sovetskiy Rayon. At present Gurtychenko cannot tear himself away from his duties as chief, and the commission is being managed by the secretary, Lyubov Petrovna Teplyakova. A beautiful blonde, an economist from Vega who commutes to the district from Berdsk daily, is forced to behave independently not only from party and friendly biases but also from displaying any signs of special attention to numerous visitors.

A Thousand Stamps—Is This Substantial?

"Welcome!" State Duma Deputy Ye.Yu. Loginov and his assistants arrived before the end of the work of the district commission, or rather, of the work of Lyubov Petrovna, who remained here, and Vladimir Pavlovich Brylev, who is on duty today and who came here from Krivodanovka.

They brought documents for registration, inasmuch as Loginov is once again a candidate for a deputy mandate. In a blue beret, a sailor's striped vest, and a green suit, he looked as if he had just come out of battle and was rushing back there again. The members of the commission had not yet put everything into the shape that is necessary according to the instructions with another candidate, A.N. Pavlenko. They were tired, and had a long way to go home, and their transport was not official but regular city transport. But Loginov insisted on having his own way, inasmuch as he would not have the time in the next few days; moreover, he was going to go to Serbia—moral support was needed there.

They started to accept the documents from him. Vladimir Pavlovich Brylev, as required, began to stamp each signature list. However, he weighed more than a hundred kilograms, and God had blessed him with strength. But it was apparent that he had gotten into a sweat. He had to work standing up—the folders were piled high. Loginov brought a Talmud that was almost a half meter thick, "perforated with a hole puncher and clamped together." There was a succession of about a thousand stamps, inasmuch as this candidate had almost a thousand lists. The Central Electoral Commission stipulated so many formalities, including this "stamping," that they feel sorry. This work is more tiring than a plant assembly line.

It got dark. We left, but the commission was still accepting documents. Tomorrow, once again early to work, but it is a long way.... There is no rest on Sunday either: A telegram from the Central Electoral Commission orders them to work.

Tatarstan Candidates Registered

964F0229B Kazan IZVESTIYA TATARSTANA in Russian 25 Oct 95 p 1

[Article by Galina Grigorenko, IZVESTIYA TATARSTANA correspondent: "Generals Have No Objection To Becoming Privates. In the State Duma"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The registration for candidates to the State Duma is coming to an end in five single-mandate districts established on the territory of Tatarstan.

According to preliminary data, 31 candidates for deputy to the Russian parliament have been registered in our republic, and the signatures of eight candidates are still being examined in district electoral commissions.

Even a cursory analysis of the list of "competitors" shows how capriciously the political deck is being shuffled now. Representatives of 13 pre-election blocs will take part in the campaign for a seat on the Olympus of power. Among them are five communists, four Zhirinovskiy supporters, three envoys each from Yabloko, the Bloc of Independents [Blok nezavisimykh], and the Interethnic Union [Mezhnatsionalnyy soyuz], and two activists each from the association Power to the People! [Vlast-narodu!] and Russia Is Our Home [Nash dom—Rossiya]....

Incidentally, unexpectedly for everyone, Vladimir Aptukhov and Oleg Moroz, State Duma deputies, have rejected support on the part of the "Home" people. They intend to represent only the interests of their own constituents in the new parliament.

Despite the lessons of previous election campaigns, which graphically demonstrated that the province does not greatly favor newcomers from the capital, four Muscovites are nonetheless making an attempt to gain the sympathy of the inhabitants of Tatarstan. Two—Vladislav Achalov, chairman of the All-Russia Officers Assembly, and Makhmut Gareyev, chairman of the Academy of Military Sciences, will "elucidate attitudes" in Moskovskiy District No. 23. Boris Isayev, president of the Association of Deputies, selected Privolzhskiy District No. 26, and Sazhi Umalatova is not losing hope of collecting a majority of the votes in Nizhnekamskiy District No. 25. It should be noted that the legendary mountaineer is the only representative of the weaker sex who is risking joining the battle on the territory of our republic.

Contrary to the forecasts of many local politicians, representatives of the nomenklatura have not yet rushed to occupy chairs in the new Russian parliament. But this, of course, does not mean that the authorities are not counting on certain persons and will not "assist" their advancement toward the cherished goal.

The predictions regarding the inevitable "invasion" into politics of latter-day businessmen also did not come true. Deputy candidates of this kind can be counted on the fingers of one hand. Besides Sergey Shashurin, president of the Tan Association, the only ones that perhaps are associated with business are Nikolay Kolcherin, chairman of the Development building cooperative, and Mikhail Atlasov, director of the private enterprise Laska. Apparently business people are not risking displaying their "machinations" for the sake of vague political objectives. But it is not ruled out that for money, which could be allocated for the conduct of election campaigns, businessmen could get "their own person" in power.

Thus, the circle of main contenders has practically been established. Now five State Duma deputies, four generals, three engineers, two journalists, and one lawyer....are preparing for meetings with their own electorates.

Judging by the latest sociological polls, the voters are again turning their interest to politics and are in fact planning to elect the authorities and not just participate mechanically in the usual mass campaign. Well, Russia has always lived with a hope for the better.

Forecasts & Commentary

Lebed's Popularity Rating Improves in Poll

LD3010203695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1853 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 30 (INTERFAX) — The popularity rating of one of the leaders of the Congress of Russian Communities, General Aleksandr Lebed, rose from 22.6 percent in September to 31.9 percent in late October, according to a questionnaire poll conducted by the Public Opinion Foundation among 1,368 respondents.

The leader of the Communist Party of Russia, Gennadiy Zyuganov, is second on the list, with 23.1 percent of hypothetical votes now against 13.1 percent in September. More people, 22.2 percent against 17.4 percent, would vote in favor of the Yabloko movement leader, Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, followed by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, with 20.5 percent against 15.2 percent.

The leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, is the only politician whose popularity rating declined from 11.9 to 10.5 percent.

Ryabov Views Registration, TsIK 'Shortcomings'

MM3110122295 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Oct 95 p 1

[Interview with Nikolay Ryabov, chairman of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission, by Aleksandr Pelts; place and date not given: "Central Electoral Commission Intends Strictly To Observe 'Letter of the Law' at All Stages of the Elections to Parliament" — first paragraph is KRASNAYA ZVEZDA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] We are continuing to inform readers of the course of the election campaign that has begun in the country. As we know an important stage — the collection of signatures — ended 22 October. What are the results of this stage? What was the reason for the defeat of many participants in the election struggle at the very outset? These and other questions are answered by Nikolay Ryabov, chairman of the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission [TsIK].

[Ryabov] The Central Electoral Commission has already reported the first results of the previous stage of the election struggle. Let me recall that the published figures and facts remain preliminary ones — the checking of documents continues. Work is on schedule and I am sure the Central Electoral Commission will complete it within the deadline stipulated by the law.

I want to stress that the Central Electoral Commission has unfortunately not managed to avoid flaws. At first glance they are insignificant but nonetheless.... Above all it is a case of the Central Electoral Commission's insufficient collaboration with the prosecutor's office organs and the MVD [Internal Affairs Ministry] on an important matter like checking alarm calls about violations during the collection of signatures. There were many alarm calls. But we would not have been able to check them all and indeed according to law this should have been done by the relevant organs. On our instructions, of course. But as a whole we can note that a clear and obvious fact has not yet reached the public consciousness — the law must be fulfilled to the last letter and not simply as regards the main points.

Nonetheless, despite the shortcomings, the first stage of the election campaign can be regarded as completed. I repeat: The final results will be reported after the check. And already we are earmarking "campaign" money for those who have already undergone registration. As we know, there are eight such parties and movements.

[Pelts] Let me get this clear, Nikolay Timofeyevich. About 15 electoral blocs left boxes containing signature sheets at the Central Electoral Commission premises in literally the final few hours. Are there many rejects in these documents?

[Ryabov] The percentage of rejects during the check was "normal." But here is what I should like to note. At the last moment many fully empowered representatives of parties and movements removed from their lists several dozen candidates' names. Why? Where are these contenders' personal statements? Or were these names included as bait? Now we shall clarify all this....

[Pelts] There is a lot of talk right now about the list of candidates who have had trouble with the law in the past. So is there a possibility that a reliable barrier will be erected to criminal elections seeking to enter parliament?

[Ryabov] You must realize that we do not have the right to deny electoral rights to those who were once punished or who are now under investigation. These are the norms of the law. They are fair and democratic. But nor should the voter's rights be infringed. The voter has the right to know who he is dealing with. Incidentally, many electoral movements and parties reacted in a civilized manner to the appearance of the well known list prepared by the MVD. But other blocs are beginning a large and dishonest game around the list. As a whole I continue to believe that publicity is the most effective method of combating any kind of dubious element trying to get into parliament.

[Pelts] In the previous elections the public monitoring system generated a very large number of complaints. Have these blunders been taken into account?

[Ryabov] A very serious question. I have believed and continue to believe that there are more than enough opportunities for full and objective monitoring of the elections. But here is the paradox. The parties and movements themselves use these opportunities very feebly, to put it mildly. For instance, we have already officially registered eight electoral blocs and movements which have received the right to send the Central Electoral Commission their representatives with a consultative vote. But where are they? We have seen no one at our premises or locally.

...I know from experience that it all begins far later, two to three days after the voting. Then statements will appear on alleged violations. We begin to investigate and as always it emerges that at the moment of so-called violation there was no trace of these declarants at the polling places....

I particularly want to speak of the widely advertised movement "for honest elections." You just ask them where they get the money for this serious and expensive work. I fear that they are being financed for completely different purposes — gathering the information their clients need. And who are these clients?...

[Pelts] How do matters stand with regard to the "Vybory" state automated system which could prevent mistakes in vote counting?

[Ryabov] Some elements of the system will be used during this election campaign. But so far it is too early to speak of the application of the entire system. Unfortunately, the reason lies in the reluctance of a number of local organs to introduce the system. Forgive me for being harsh but there is a kind of medieval attitude toward civilized working methods. Nonetheless I hope that the system will soon start to work and bring obvious benefit.

[Pelts] As we know candidates from the army have joined the election struggle. This has given rise to various reactions.

[Ryabov] But the militar[illegible]e not running for parliament for fun. They just obvi[illegible] do not see any other way of helping themselves.

Of course in a stable, strong state a military man would have no reason to seek power. He would have other interests in life and service. But in our country, unfortunately, the situation is different.... But there is least reason of all to blame the servicemen themselves.

Yavlinskiy Comments on Reform, Yabloko Platform

964F0244A Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 19-25 Oct 95 No 39, p 2

[Article by Grigoriy Yavlinskiy under the "A Philistine Question" rubric: "What Is It We Are Building: Communist Capitalism or Capitalist Communism?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *Under the rubric "A Philistine Question," we have already had prominent economists Leonid Abalkin, Oleg Bogomolov, Tatyana Zaslavskaya, Pavel Bunich, Yegor Gaydar, Tatyana Koryagina, and Boris Pinsker answer puzzled, sometimes even ignorant from a scientific viewpoint, "philistine" questions and presumptions. Today is Grigoriy Yavlinskiy's turn.*

[Begin box] What is wrong per se with the program slogans of communism, which we were building until recently? From each according to his ability, to each according to his labor. And then even more than that: To each according to his needs. After all, the proclaimed goal of society's economic development was to satisfy the material and spiritual needs of its members. The problem is that the slogans diverged from reality. What is wrong per se with the slogans of the modern democrat-reformists building capitalism? Economic freedom of the individual, and a legal framework to support this freedom. Each can earn as much as he wants. The problem is that this time too the slogans diverged from reality. The majority of people are getting poorer, and a 5-7 percent minority are getting fat; the powers that be reassure us every year: The economy has stabilized. And then it all goes as Stanislaw Jerzy Lec once put it: When we reached the bottom, someone knocked from below. So what are we building—communist capitalism or capitalist communism? And what kind of economy do we actually need to build, what reforms do we need to implement in order to achieve a real improvement in people's life instead of feeding them first with communist and then with capitalist promises of a bright future? [end box]

Communist slogans are attractive to many. What is bad about them is that they are a myth.

As to what we are building right now: a criminal oligarchy state.

In order to improve our life we need to change our economic course. Only having first accomplished an enormous scope of work on demonopolizing the economy, and having created a competitive environment and a considerable private sector, can we talk seriously about financial stabilization.

The fastest way to create a competitive environment and private sector is by encouraging small business. For this, we need to ensure maximally favorable conditions for its development and remove the almost unsurmountable obstacles on the path of citizens who wish to open their own business. When we were implementing our program of regional reforms in Nizhniy Novgorod, the permit-based system of starting up a private enterprise was replaced with the registration system, which does not require permission and numerous bureaucratic approvals, and over the first two weeks 7,000 new private enterprises opened up.

The structure of Russian industry requires serious changes. We need to begin a real structural restructuring, ensuring support for locomotive sectors: science-intensive industries in the area of "breakthrough" technologies as the foundation of future economic growth, and traditional export sectors. In other sectors we need to reorganize ineffective and chronically insolvent enterprises instead of propping up de facto bankrupts.

Administrative redistribution of property is completely out. There are enough economic levers to turn pseudo-private enterprises into a true private sector. We have prepared a program of this type of privatization for the Government of Moscow. Implementing it in Moscow and extending it to the rest of Russia is now only a question of the authorities' political will. As to thieves, they should be in prison. If the thieves are not in prison, it means that the authorities either cannot cope with their responsibilities or are themselves stealing.

Also necessary is, first, land reform, and second, the creation of a technological chain: the field—transportation—storage—product sales—banking support—legal oversight—obtaining credit for seasonal work and making future deals (advance payment under the guarantee of future harvest).

Finally, we need to stop feeding people promises about "tomorrow," give up the "let the strongest survive" notion, and immediately move to a normally functioning social system.

The money for this should be generated by:

—implementing a broad program of savings in state expenditures, which should produce 10-12 percent of the funds needed for social security;

—bringing order into the payment of taxes, 40 percent of which remain uncollected—first and foremost from the same monopolies;

—creating in the country conditions that will stop the exodus of capital, of which up to $15 billion flows abroad annually.

There are also a number of other measures that will permit us as quickly as within two months after this policy is implemented to begin solving the problem of all social payments. At the same time, it is necessary to envision measures to ensure that pensions and other social benefits keep up with inflation.

Your question is directly linked with the problem NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA already raised on 21 September under the rubric "A Philistine Question": Why after years of reforms we still do not have a middle class?

The formation of middle class is the main task of economic reform. In Russia, the people who should make up the middle class are engineers, science workers, teachers, doctors, the military, skilled blue-collar workers, and peasants—in short, people working conscientiously eight hours a day and living mainly on their wages. People who have a normal home, a car, the ability to pay for their children's education and for a normal vacation of their choice during the year—this is what a middle class is for Russia.

The reform started by the Gaydar government has not created such abilities. It simply divided property among a small group of people and ended there. Why? Because reforms were carried out by an absolutely irresponsible team. Gaydar believed that everything would take care of itself and the strongest would survive. Even the word "social" became anathema.

What do we need to do to make the middle class an economic reality? We need to make an individual independent—not in the sense that one can do whatever he wishes without any regard for the laws of the state. The point is to make a citizen, a taxpayer independent of bureaucrats in the process of obtaining material wealth and in exercising his rights as defined by the law, to make a citizen ruled only by the law, and to make the authorities a true "servant of the people."

For this we need to first of all change the organization of our entire economy by demonopolizing it and implementing true—not voucher-based—privatization. It is necessary to ensure access to property and resources for a considerably broader circle of people than currently.

To truly give people property, we need to organize the privatization of departmental housing stock and social infrastructure facilities on departmental books; introduce an unrestricted notification system for registering private enterprises instead of the current permit-based one; and actively support small and medium-size business by substantially broadening their access to material and financial resources by reducing administrative restrictions.

We cannot avoid granting tax and other preferences: expansion and intensification of small business privatization, including by conducting targeted restricted auctions for the disabled, pensioners, farmers, and other categories of the population; privatization in agriculture, including the entire structure of procurement, storage, and distribution of agricultural output; conducting land reform, including selling land to the population; and creating a state service tasked with protecting private property.

Turning a majority of the population into property owners will require changing the system of financing the social spheres that in the past have been either completely free or partly subsidized by the budget. The amount of all these subsidies should be included in the population's income. People begin to get everything they earn and with their income pay for the services they need.

A man who has property, private and inalienable, which he uses to earn a living for himself and his family—this is the foundation of not only the economic but also political independence of the citizen from the authorities. This political independence of the citizen must be ensured by continuing the now-interrupted process of the country's democratization.

Zyuganov Criticizes Reforms, 'American Hegemony'

BR3110131395 Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 31 Oct 95 p 6

[Interview with Gennadiy Zyuganov, leader of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, by Franco Venturini in Moscow; date not given: "Conspiracy in the Air in Moscow" — first two paragraphs are CORRIERE DELLA SERA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow — "The opinion polls show that we are the favorites. But they do not tell the whole truth: We Communists enjoy the support of much broader people's masses, and a stable Russia is in the West's interest, too."

Surrounded by secretaries dressed in the latest fashions, with his reassuring smile and a red flag pin on his lapel, in his office in the Duma Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov seems to embody the contradictions of pre-election Russia.

[Venturini] Boris Yeltsin is sick and could be out of the running. Is that good news for you Communists?

[Zyuganov] Yeltsin's real sickness is called irresponsibility, and it has lasted for a long time. He brought the tanks into the streets, he caused people to be shot at. Now that the president is in hospital people are trying to destabilize the situation; we are not sure that the 17 December general elections really will take place. The election committee has already eliminated two parties; there is conspiracy in the air, and I can tell you that I also found very strange the business of the bus seized in Red Square, just as I do some of the ambushes in Chechnya. Someone is working to ensure that the election does not take place in December, in the knowledge that in that case the presidential elections will not take place in June either.

[Venturini] But if the elections do take place and the Communists achieve the success that is being forecast, do you plan to ally with the nationalists in order to gain a majority in parliament?

[Zyuganov] First, it is necessary to insure against fraud. I was able to read an American secret service report on the 1993 constitutional referendum: It says that 9 million votes in favor of Yeltsin were fabricated. We Communists will advance nevertheless. The people's feelings are clear, and throughout the East there is a return to the Left. You asked me about the nationalists: But is it perhaps their fault that the present nomenklatura has betrayed all our homeland's interests? That our people's flag, language, culture, and history have been insulted? Do you consider it normal that almost all the advertising hoardings in the center of Moscow are in English? That does not happen even in Africa. This is where nationalism originates; we agree with them on many things. Not on everything, of course. In fact Zhirinovskiy has always played into Yeltsin's and Chernomyrdin's hands; he is a figure that has been cleverly inflated and that has large amounts of money at his disposal.

[Venturini] But are you not worried about the large number of military men entering politics? At one time the Communists spoke about Bonapartism...

[Zyuganov] Bonaparte is already in the Kremlin; it is he who had parliament fired on, and you in the West did not even have the courage to condemn it. Yeltsin now has more power than a tsar and a pharaoh put together. So what should we fear from the military, which no longer has any role within society? I prefer generals with a parliamentary mandate to perform rather than at the wheel of a tank. Partly because Russia's situation is desperate, the temptation to resort to violence does exist, and the elections are the last chance to resolve matters peacefully.

[Venturini] What do you think of privatization, the market reforms?

[Zyuganov] Our economy has been strangled by the so-called reforms. We want to restore a role to the state by enabling it to coexist with the private sector. Over the years in our country, there has been only destruction; our production has been destroyed. The laws must be rewritten and provision must be made for state ownership, collective ownership, and private ownership. Economic order is in the interest of foreign investors too, but the sole concern here is to commit robbery.

[Venturini] Would I be wrong in saying that your program envisages the restoration of the USSR?

[Zyuganov] The Russian people have never before been as fragmented as they are now. Their reunification is a priority for us. We believe that the Union can be formed on a voluntary basis, step by step, starting with the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan. In any case is that not what you are doing in Europe, too? We are in favor of political pluralism, religious freedom, and respect for different ethnicities; we are in favor of a new constitution and of a return to the Union. The West must understand that there will be no world stability without a stable Russia.

[Venturini] What kind of relations would you maintain with the West?

[Zyuganov] When the USSR existed the West did not oppose Communist ideology: It opposed the existence of a strong state. Behind the mask of the struggle for human rights, it was actually struggling to conquer our markets, for the control of our raw materials. According to the West, previously everything was wrong and now everything is right. Does that not tell you something? We must regain our rights and our dignity; there is American hegemony in Russia now. When this has been achieved, we will maintain the best of relations with America, Europe, and Germany. This, because I think that the European Union does not satisfy Germany's geopolitical interests.

[Venturini] What about NATO's plans to expand to the East?

[Zyuganov] They surprise me: Europe has already waged enough wars in this century.

[Venturini] What kind of relations do you maintain with Europe's former communist Left — with Italy's for instance?

[Zyuganov] The Russian people still love Togliatti very much. We want to restore all the contacts that the CPSU used to have. We are working on it.

[Venturini] Mr. Zyuganov, as a CPSU leader, you sharply opposed Gorbachev's policy. Have you changed your mind?

[Zyuganov] Absolutely not. During those years I stated openly that perestroyka would lead to disaster and violence, and what happened? Now Gorbachev is busy covering the tracks of his political action because he is afraid of his responsibilities. The Nobel Peace Prize as awarded to someone who sparked a series of civil wars, who has 600,000 lives, a million casualties, and 6 million refugees on his conscience. This is the price of the disintegration that Gorbachev made possible. Poor Alfred Nobel must have turned in his grave on the day of the award ceremony. Then the same thing started with Yeltsin, he started to be described as a great democrat — he who has never had anything to do with democracy.

[Venturini] But does your party consider itself the heir to the CPSU or not?

[Zyuganov] There were two communist parties in the USSR. One comprised genuine patriots who worked honestly. The other was the party of Trotsky, Beria, Yakovlev, Gorbachev, and Yeltsin. For them Russia was merely a prey. Now it is this party that administers the banditry in high places, that shares out wealth and power. We are the heirs to the former CPSU, not to the latter.

[Venturini] What about Lenin?

[Zyuganov] He is a great reference point. Whoever wants to desecrate him has never read any of his books.

Filatov: Army Involvement in Elections 'Dangerous'

LD2810162595 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1421 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 28 (INTERFAX) — Presidential Administration Chief Sergey Filatov regards the fact that state employees and army candidates run in elections on party tickets as "immensely dangerous for the state."

He told an INTERFAX interviewer on Saturday that the imperfect election law "may kindle a domestic conflict all of a sudden."

The law allows a candidate to participate in the election campaign in time after work. "But a serviceman has no working hours as he serves all 24 hours," Filatov explained, stressing that "it is hard to imagine how a government employee, let alone a serviceman can run in elections on opposition party tickets."

He said that many opposition parties "do not conceal their anti-constitutional trend."

"Involvement in political struggle on such parties side is a violation of an oath of allegiance," Filatov stressed, adding that "in such a case, there can hardly be a greater menace for the state."

He reported that about a thousand government employees and over 200 servicemen are running for parliament on party lists.

Baltin: Military Candidates 'Natural'

LD2810182195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1651 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 28 (INTERFAX) — The commander of Russia's Black Sea Fleet said on Saturday it was quite natural that there are members of the armed forces among candidates for the next parliament.

"Today the military cannot stay outside politics," Admiral Eduard Baltin told INTERFAX.

Baltin, who is on a list of candidates proposed by a center-left bloc called For the Fatherland and led by former privatization minister Vladimir Polevanov, argued that those who are in the armed services "can subjugate themselves to the interests of the nation better than anyone else can." But they have been "forced into politics, for a struggle for the armed forces is today a struggle for the country." The present parliament has spent a lot of time discussing the armed forces' problems but has solved none of them in practice, the admiral said.

With the "unprofessional and even criminal way military problems are handled," developing the armed forces is a "doomed" enterprise, Baltin said. "One cannot make the numerical strength of the armed forces dependent on the size of the population, nor can the financing of defense programs be based on some abstractly concocted percentage of the national budget. That is a policy that would lead to the end not only of the armed forces but of Russia as well."

Duma CIS Committee Head Views Integration, Referendum

WS3110115695 Minsk CHYRVONAYA ZMENA in Belarusian 28 Oct 95 p 2

[Interview with Konstantin Zatulin, chairman of the Russian Federation State Duma Committee for CIS Issues and Contacts With Diaspora, by unidentified BELTA reporter; place and date not given: "Belarus-Russia: A Step To Meet Halfway"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **On 20 October the Russian State Duma passed a resolution on the development of the integration processes between the Russian Federation and Belarus. Konstantin Zatulin, chairman of the Russian Federation State Duma Committee for CIS Issues and Contacts With the Diaspora, who recently stayed in Minsk, provided us with commentaries on this document.**

[BELTA] Mr. Zatulin, is the passing of the aforementioned resolution connected to the statement issued by the Russian Federation Assembly upper chamber on strengthening economic and political integration with Belarus?

[Zatulin] It is directly connected. The third clause, which is at the same time the last clause of the resolution says: "To discuss the need to hold a Russia-wide referendum on relations with the Republic of Belarus after the program for developing the integration processes between Russia and Belarus is drafted." However, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the primary issue — the program for rapprochement — is envisioned by the two first clauses of the resolution. The State Duma decided, first: "To recommend that the president of the Russian Federation submit for discussion by the Russian Federal Assembly the program for integration between Russia and Belarus. Second: "To propose that a Russian Federation state delegation be set up for holding negotiations with the Republic of Belarus and developing the legal basis for securing the integration processes and determining the forms of rapprochement between the two countries. The delegation shall be comprised by representatives of the Russian Government, the Federal Council, and the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma." The Duma's deputies regard the development of the integration processes, and not the referendum, as the primary task.

[BELTA] What then prompted the Duma's decision to pass this resolution?

[Zatulin] First and foremost, my colleagues took into consideration the earlier ratification of the agreement on friendship, good-neighborly relations, and cooperation between Russia and Belarus, as well as other agreements which reflect the actual and potential state of the reintegration processes between these two countries. We also took into consideration the results of the national referendum held in Belarus on 14 May 1995, which confirmed that the Belarusian nation is striving to unite with Russia. On the basis of the aforementioned facts the Duma stated its absolute support for profound integration between our states. State Duma deputies expect that further rapprochement between our two countries corresponds with the vital interests and expectations of the Russian and Belarusian nations; it will contribute to the increase of their wealth; help to overcome the crisis phenomena in the national development with which the two countries have encountered; facilitate the development of Slavic culture, and strengthen Russia's and Belarus's authority in the international arena.

[BELTA] What is your personal viewpoint on this issue?

[Zatulin] Being in essence an advocate of unity between Russia and Belarus, I would like to point to the fact that there is a possible danger of using the popular and undisputable idea of reintegration by those politicians and political parties who have contributed to the situation in which millions of our compatriots found themselves beyond our state's border. I am convinced that the Russian nation will give the Russian leadership a vote of confidence when the latter starts to act and not only talk about uniting initiatives with their sleeves rolled up. I believe that the shortest way to unite Russia and Belarus is by allowing the Russian side to conduct the integration process with political leaders who correctly assess the situation, such as Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka and his supporters.

Baltic Environmental Ministers Sign Documents in Sofia

WS3110085995 Tallinn BNS in English 1900 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Oct 30, BNS — Baltic environmental protection ministers have signed three documents in the conference "Environment for Europe" which took place in Sofia last week, Environmental Protection Department Director Valts Vilnitis told a press conference on Monday.

The package includes a protocol on practical cooperation in environmental protection which is going on in the frames of the Baltic environmental protection forum since June of 1995, a memorandum of understanding as well as an announcement for the U.N. Environmental Protection Secretariat on implementation of the Montreal Protocol.

Montreal protocol is included in the Vienna convention on restricting waste of substances destroying the ozone layer. The protocol says that all countries must regulate export, import or production of the respective substances accordingly to the degree of their harmfulness. Latvia joined the protocol in March of 1995.

As Latvia cannot implement some of the protocol requirements because of the retarded industry, a plea was sent to the U.N. Environmental Protection Secretariat not to refer these requirements to Latvia in the near future.

Vilnitis claimed that environment in the Baltic region in not as polluted as in the Central Europe and a part of the Eastern Europe.

Yeltsin Signs Condolence Message to Azerbaijan

LD3010160795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1551 GMT 30 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 30 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has expressed his condolences to the people of Azerbaijan in connection with Saturday's tragedy on the Baku subway which led to the deaths of around 300 people. An official spokesman for the head of state's press service told the ITAR-TASS correspondent today that the fax received by the press service carried the personal signature of Boris Yeltsin, who is currently being treated in the Central Clinical Hospital.

Greets Suleyman on Turkish Holiday

MM3110104095 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 31 Oct 95 p 1

[Report from "President" column: "Congratulations to Turkish Leader"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Boris Yeltsin has sent Turkish President Suleyman Demirel congratulations on the national holiday — the 72d anniversary of the proclamation of the Turkish Republic. "The Russian Federation," the telegram says, "was one of the first to recognize the government of the Turkish Grand National Assembly and in November 1920 opened a diplomatic mission in Ankara, which was an important milestone in the history of Russian-Turkish relations and promoted the consolidation of friendship and cooperation between our countries."

Yeltsin's Visit to Norway 'Postponed'

LD3010154795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1543 GMT 30 Oct 95

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 30 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin's official visit to Norway scheduled for November 20 and 21 has been postponed, a well-informed source in the Kremlin told ITAR-TASS on Monday.

The source added that preparations for the visit will go on and its new terms will be agreed via diplomatic channels.

The source also confirmed that a final decision was taken on Monday postponing Yeltsin's visit to China scheduled for November 9.

Four days after Yeltsin was rushed to the hospital with a heart condition no "considerable changes in the state of his health had occurred, there is no negative dynamics," Yeltsin's spokesman Sergey Medvedev said on Monday quoting the doctors of the president.

Medvedev said that doctors still do not recommend Yeltsin's aides to visit the president because they consider intensive working contacts "inappropriate" in the first days of the aggravation of the ischemic heart disease.

The disease limits the flow of blood to the heart.

Milosevic Visit to Moscow 'Postponed'

LD3010165795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1607 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 30 (INTERFAX) — Serb President Slobodan Milosevic will not come to Moscow Tuesday, the Government Information Department told INTERFAX Monday afternoon.

According to the department staff, "the visit has been postponed."

Prior to this, INTERFAX had learned from reliable sources that Milosevic was to land in Moscow Tuesday on his way to the United States to attend the meeting of the leaders of the three former Yugoslav republics in Dayton, Ohio.

According to INTERFAX information, Milosevic planned to meet his Russian counterpart, Boris Yeltsin, during this brief stop. However, the meeting was made impossible by Yeltsin's hospitalization.

INTERFAX sources also said Milosevic had also considered the possibility of meeting Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Defense Minister Ends Official Part of Greece Visit

LD3010213595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2119 GMT 30 Oct 95

[By Yuriy Malinov and Vladimir Malyshev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ATHENS, October 31 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev ended the official part of his visit to Greece by giving a speech at the National Academy of Defence in Athens on Monday.

The minister outlined Russia's position on security issues and NATO's role in a new Europe.

Earlier in the day, Grachev met his Greek counterpart Gerassimos Arsenis and signed an agreement on military and technical cooperation between Russia and Greece.

He also had talks with Greek President Konstandinos Stefanopoulos.

The agreement, the first of the kind in the history of relations between the two countries, calls for assistance to Greece in training specialists for maintaining military equipment made in the former Soviet Union and left behind after the reintegration of East Germany and West Germany, and in supplying spare parts for them.

Under the agreement, warships of the two countries will exchange visits, while Russian officers will study in Greece and Greek officers in Russia.

Grachev stressed that the agreement opens up a new page in the history of relations between Russia and Greece.

Arsenis noted that working groups of experts are already discussing specific steps concerning the implementation of the agreement and said he was very optimistic about its future.

He noted that the talks with his Greek colleagues focused on European security, bilateral relations and prospects for their development, including in the military sphere.

The minister emphasised that Russia and Greece share the view that the conflict in Bosnia should be settled by peaceful and democratic means.

Speaking at a press conference about Russia's engagement in Bosnia, he stressed that "Russia will take part in the peace-keeping operation in Bosnia in any event."

He said Russian troops will not be put under NATO's control. "I will not carry out peace-keeping functions as part of NATO," he said.

The minister noted that at the initial stage of the operation in Bosnia — disengagement of the warring sides — Russia will send two to three more battalions to the region in addition to the two it already has there under the U.N. mandate.

At the second stage (in four to six weeks' time), Russia, along with other countries, will take part in the so-called "special operation," as Russian President Boris Yeltsin said during his visit to the United States.

To this end, Russia will set up and send to Bosnia up to one special bridge to carry out airlifting and humanitarian operations, including to provide assistance to returning refugees, clear mine fields and restore the war-devastated economy.

Grachev said he is optimistic that the question of Russian troops' engagement in the peace-keeping efforts in Bosnia not under NATO command will be solved in a positive way. The Russian and American sides will discuss this issue at their joint meeting in Brussels in November, he added.

"I am confident that the American side will make the right conclusion and agree with our proposals," the minister noted.

Asked about strenuous relations between Georgia and Turkey, Grachev said "Turkey poses no threat to Russia," adding that "we are for the closest possible relations with both Greece and Turkey."

The minister confirmed that during his talks in Athens he discussed Russian arms sales to Greece and that this issue will be discussed in the future at the level of experts.

Before he returns to Moscow on Wednesday, Grachev is expected to take a sightseeing tour of ancient monuments and have a meeting with Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou.

Seeks Allies To Counter NATO Expansion

LD3010225095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2155 GMT 30 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Yuriy Malinov and Vladimir Malyshev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Athens, 31 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — "Russia is very worried about the possibility of NATO expanding to the east and of the states of Eastern and Central European, the Baltic countries, and the other republics of the former USSR entering that bloc. If this occurs then the aims of the military doctrine, which have remained defensive, will be reviewed immediately in the direction of rigid defense in the conditions actually arising. We will, of course, have to take unpopular, but appropriate measures." Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, who was here on a visit to Greece, said this this evening when he addressed an audience at the republic's National Defense Academy.

He said that Russia will have to look for other allies, whether she likes it or not, as she will see a potential threat to herself from a North Atlantic alliance expanding in her direction. Although we are against the system of blocs, Grachev said, we will be obliged to deal with the issue of creating a military-political bloc with a number of former USSR states. Furthermore, if Russia's views are ignored and the process of NATO's expansion increases at a rapid rate, then Russia will have to seek partners in southeast and east Asia and in the Asia-Pacific Ocean region. "I think that we will find such partners," the minister remarked, "but it is an undesirable process." Therefore, we are against NATO expanding.

Speaking on the world contemporary military-political situation, Grachev remarked that it remained complex and contradictory. The end of the Cold War has removed the limitations that held conflicts in check. The emergence of new centers of force, the collapse of some states and the appearance of others, and the transformation of bloc structures are being accompanied by a deterioration in the political situation on the basis of ethnic contradictions, a heightening of territorial claims, and the flare-up of armed conflicts. Grounded in aggressive nationalism and religious intolerance, these conflicts pose the chief threat to international peace and security.

In this context, it becomes urgently necessary to create effective regional security systems appropriate to modern conditions, the minister continued. The issues of creating such systems are arising and beginning to be tackled to one extent or another in a number of regions — in Europe, the CIS, the Middle East, and the Asia-Pacific Ocean region. Russia has consistently called for creating a new, non-bloc system of collective security in all the world regions. These systems' mutual contiguity will clearly become the characteristic peculiarity of their existence and will create the possibility of agreeing security policy at inter-regional level.

Noting that Russia is concerned by a situation in which individual international or regional military-political organizations are trying to take over UN peacekeeping functions, Grachev said that it could not be ruled out that peacekeeping functions in Europe might ultimately be assigned to NATO to a considerable extent. But that, he said, will only become possible when the organization had undergone a real transformation and had become an integral part of the European security system that is being created. In the meantime, NATO is a military bloc, so Russia's approach is, as a matter of principle, that any peacekeeping operations should be carried out only by decision of the UN Security Council and under its political direction and control.

In Russia's view, the future system of security in Europe should be created under the aegis of the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) as a stage-by-stage process of the gradual transformation of all the cooperation structures available on the continent, including the European Union, the West European Union, NATO, the CIS, and other components of a single European security system. A treaty on security signed by all the OSCE members could provide the legal framework of this system. The provision that the security of each state is guaranteed by all the other signatories of the treaty, regardless of their participation in any unions or alliances, should become a fundamental feature of this original Euroatlantic pact of universal military and political partnership.

Answering a question on Russia's attitude to the French nuclear tests, Grachev stressed that Russia is against nuclear tests and has not conducted any already for a long time. "However, we are alarmed and dismayed by France's latest actions," he said. "We know that there is talk in the United States about resuming nuclear tests in the near future. We are against this as well." But if the agreement banning nuclear tests is further violated Russia is likely to revise its statements: We cannot refrain unilaterally from nuclear tests for a long time, the minister warned.

IZVESTIYA Reviews Grachev's U.S. Activities

MM3110122795 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Oct 95 pp 1-2

[Report by Valeriy Yakov: "Raid on Kansas and Back. IZVESTIYA Special Correspondent Valeriy Yakov Reports"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington-Kansas-Missouri —

Defense Minister's Revelations on Events Around Chechnya

In the aircraft en route from Washington to Moscow, Pavel Grachev invited journalists to his cabin for an informal chat. Noticeably pleased with the results of his talks, he was in a highly cordial mood and willingly answered virtually all the questions. But whereas in the United States, U.S. reporters only asked about the progress of the talks and Yeltsin's health, in the aircraft we moved on quite soon to events in Chechnya. Grachev warned that right now he is unable to reveal all the background to this dreadful war. He did nonetheless say something about certain details.

He recalled his last meeting with Dudayev, which took place back in the early stages of the conflict. At the time Dudayev was amazingly calm. It was as if he was not even worried that he would have to fight the Russian Army rather than scattered opposition. And Dudayev responded with a laugh when Grachev said that military intelligence had complete information on all the Chechen formations' lines of defense: "None of that is important. They will not allow you to annihilate me all the same. When necessary they will stop it." Minister Grachev remembered this conversation when in the closing stages of the war he received a command to stop any further advance into the mountains....

With regard to the special forces' recent capture of the airfield at Sleptsovskaya he said: "I was told by the FSB [Federal Security Service] that the airfield had been captured by Chechen guerrillas and that they might leave from there. I gave the command for the skies to be covered, to scramble our special forces, and take control of the airfield. People carried out the order professionally and competently and when they came under fire from a vehicle they returned the fire and injured some of the people in the vehicle. By evening the whole press was buzzing: The military have taken provocative action and attacked civilians.... There was not a word about our people coming under fire or to say that the initiative for the operation did not come from us, that we were once again set up...."

As for the beginning of the war itself: "I have already said that it was not my wish to get embroiled in this war. You know, after all, that all wars are started by politicians while the military wage them. I was opposed to using the army in this situation. But orders are orders. As for details, pardon me but...."

Men's Games in Fort Riley

The joint Russian-U.S. "Peacekeeper-95" exercises will end 2 November at the U.S. 1st Infantry Division's test range at Fort Riley, Kansas. Since 27 October from morning till evening, several hundred soldiers and officers have been mastering the details of joint operations and active cooperation in an open field on the territory of a theoretical "hot spot."

....Farmer Henry Conti decided to arrange an unusual day out for his family and take them all to the "Big Red [One]" (that is what people in the United States have called the 1st Infantry Division since time immemorial) test range and show them real Russian soldiers. Local TV programs and newspapers have constantly reported on the exercises, but it is of course more interesting to see everything for yourself. Especially since even Henry's grandfather could not remember anything of the sort — a Russian soldier has never set foot in Fort Riley.

A whole line of vehicles formed on one of the hills near the Kansas River. It turns out that curiosity tore not only the Conti family away from their work but also many other inhabitants of nearby towns and farms, who came to watch Russian and U.S. soldiers' actions. The division's base is not fenced off, the test site is accessible to all-comers, so no one had any trouble in getting to the scene of events. Moreover, division commander Major General Rendolf Khauz [name as transliterated] even detailed a special officer to explain to curious local people what was going on and ensured that the most curious did not get too close to the theoretical "hot spot."

At this point 150 Russian soldiers and just over 200 Americans were conducting a peacekeeping operation on a nearby hill, which was deemed to be the troubled country of "X." Under the leadership of Lieutenant General Aleksandr Sokolov and Maj. Gen. Rendolf Khauz soldiers and officers rehearsed joint operations to disengage the conflicting sides, set up checkpoints, patrol sectors on foot, clear the areas of mines, and helicopter in humanitarian freight.

The prompt response to "mass disturbances" in one sector was the most entertaining spectacle. While an encircled checkpoint held back the onslaught of a menacing mob, four helicopters painted black flew out of a copse and headed toward the area at extremely low altitude and hovered one meter above the ground for a short time. Several dozen soldiers jumped out of the helicopters, formed a chain, and began to envelop the besieged checkpoint and force back the mob. Armed to the teeth, dressed in camouflage gear, and acting in a staggeringly coordinated and decisive manner, they involuntarily aroused fear and the "raging mob" began to fall back before warning shots were even fired.

It proved virtually impossible to ascertain from outside which members of the assault group were Russian and which were American. Our guys were only given away by their Kalashnikov assault rifles and the "MS" (Mirotvorcheskiye sily [peacekeeping forces]) chevrons on their sleeves. But they could only be made out by going right up to the soldiers when they were taking a rest after the successful operation.

Junior NCO Aleksey Yagidarov of the 27th Guards Motorized Rifle Division reconnaissance platoon was terse: "Kansas as Kansas is nothing special. There are the same kind of steppes as we have in the Volga region. It is hot and dusty and we are working ourselves to the bone. But their barracks are admittedly better, there is even a shower."

Yevgeniy Nastenko from the same platoon was delighted to voice his opinion of his U.S. counterparts' abilities: "They are top-notch guys, always smiling, many have studied Russian for some reason, but they don't say much. They are extremely thoughtful when it comes to action. When we receive a command, we immediately advance, and take rapid, tough action. But they start pondering and planning.... They lagged behind us the whole way. Later these boxes were attached to our assault rifles in order to fire an infrared ray; if you hit the target, a little bell rings. We are accustomed to firing live ammunition at shooting ranges. That is, this was all a game."

Our soldiers' somewhat condescending opinion is understandable if you consider that many of them already have real experience of peacekeeping operations in their troubled fatherland. However, the "Big Red [One]," "our nation's first and oldest cavalry division," as the Americans say, is not for nothing proud of its history, it has fought in World Wars I and II, the Vietnam war, and Operation Desert Storm.... Thus soldiers and officers do indeed have something to learn from one another. As they are doing with obvious delight for the second time now. The first exercises of this kind took place a year ago at the Russian test site in Totskoye. Then local citizens also went to the scene of the exercise and demanded at national patriots' prompting: "Yanks, go home!" They were severely upset that the U.S. jackboot would be trampling their native land. Farmers from Kansas, who value their land just as much, for some reason came to the Fort Riley test range without banners proclaiming "Ivan, go home." They brought their children and showed them real Russian soldiers, unpatriotically shouting "Very good!"

Until Their Meeting in Brussels

U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry flew in to Kansas for one phase of the exercises 27 October along with Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev. This was no mere courtesy visit if you bear in mind that the day before the ministers had held long talks in Washington about the tactics for joint peacekeeping operations in the Balkans. Just over a week ago the Russian and U.S. presidents defined their strategy for cooperation in this explosive region. The defense ministers were instructed to discuss the details.

But the defense ministers' meeting began with an unexpected topic. Initially journalists beset Grachev with questions about President Yeltsin's state of health right after the splendid reception ceremony for the Russian minister on the green lawn in front of the Pentagon. Then the talks themselves began with a brief exchange of information on the same topic. But Grachev had nothing to tell his U.S. colleagues. According to him, he only learned of the president's illness just before arriving in Washington, but the report was fairly brief although not very alarming.

Later when, on our return from Washington to Moscow, Grachev, who had relaxed somewhat after the three-day intensive program for the visit, continued this subject in somewhat greater detail in the aircraft. "I think that everything will be normal, Boris Nikolayevich just over-exerted himself during the trip," he said. "But the president is a strong, sporty man. His serve alone is pretty formidable. I am referring to tennis...."

Pavel Sergeyevich was also able to demonstrate his passion for tennis in Washington. Straight after the talks he asked the Americans to come to the court "for a break" and won 6:1, 6:2, 6:0. After the game it was discovered that the vehicle that had brought Grachev to the court had disappeared. The alarm was short-lived. It soon emerged that it had been towed away to the car pound for improper parking.

There is every indication that during the negotiating process the Americans felt more confident than on the court. They ultimately agreed that Russian troops would take part in all phases of the peacekeeping operation in Bosnia and not simply join in the final stages as previously intended. The U.S. side also confirmed their agreement to Russians not being subordinate to the NATO leadership. But none of the five proposals put forward by Grachev's team — as to how specifically this leadership will be implemented — was really accepted. The sides postponed detailed study of this key issue until their next meeting scheduled for November in Brussels.

It is only clear that the Russian contingent will be led by General Shevtsov and the U.S. side by General Joulwan, NATO supreme allied commander Europe. He is to exercise overall leadership of the operation. It is still not entirely clear how Gen. Shevtsov will remain independent of NATO, although Grachev did claim that during the operation Joulwan will be merely considered a U.S. general.

Nor was the problem of the operation's funding resolved fully either, since the Russian division and several reconnaissance subunits that are already virtually ready to fly off to the Balkans will have to wait for orders for some time. Defense Secretary Perry mentioned early November, while Minister Grachev spoke of a couple of months at best. According to him, it is better not to rush in this situation — owing to the complex relationship with the Congress on the one hand and the coming elections on the other....

Both ministers destroyed a "Minuteman-2" launch silo in a corn field in Missouri — under the Treaty on the Limitation of Offensive Arms. Despite the unusual nature of the event and the fact that it was a weekend the process seemed totally mundane. A group of journalists afraid of missing the moment of the explosion stood freezing in the biting wind, about a dozen local inhabitants gathered to the side under a tree, and the local sheriff stood nearby with his vehicle looking blatantly bored. On a command from the master of ceremonies the ministers each pressed their buttons simultaneously — and a small cloud flew over the field. There was now one less silo.

At the final farewell banquet in Fort Riley organized by Gen. Rendolf Khaus [surname as transliterated], commander of the "Big Red [One]," after hamburger, baked potato, and Californian wine both defense ministers became noticeably more relaxed and eloquent. Outside during a break at the banquet Grachev even criticized U.S. democracy when his proposal to break for a cigarette failed to meet with support from either Secretary Perry or General Khaus. "What kind of democracy do you have if you have ordered the whole country not to smoke and no one smokes," Pavel Sergeyevich said. "We have more freedom in our country: If you want to smoke, you can, if you don't, you don't," and he laughed. Secretary Perry kept quiet but did nonetheless smile.

Foreign Ministry Calls For Lifting of FRY Sanctions

LD3010143895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1431 GMT 30 Oct 95

[By Viktor Khrekov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 30 (ITAR-TASS) — In the run-up to the talks of concerned parties on the Bosnian settlement, beginning in the United States on November 1, the Russian Foreign Ministry firmly declared for the lifting of all sanctions of the world community from Yugoslavia.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin told ITAR-TASS on Monday that First Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov flies to Ohio on Tuesday to participate in the talks.

The question of sanctions regarding Belgrade and Bosnian Serbs assumes special importance in connection with the beginning of negotiations and possible signing of the agreement, Karasin said. "It is believed in Moscow that the opening of the talks and, moreover, signing of a peace agreement are reason enough for lifting the sanctions," Karasin said.

"Russia proceeds from the view that there will be no legal grounds for continuing the sanctions, particularly after the signing of a peace treaty," Karasin said. Moreover, this may cost a slur on the United Nations Security Council, he added.

"The Russian side firmly declares for immediately lifting all sanctions on Yugoslavia," Karasin said. He said the Foreign Ministry is engaged in work at various levels, within the Contact Group and in the Security Council. "This stance is opposed, but the efforts will be continued," Karasin said.

Contact Group Rejects Lifting Sanctions

LD3010165295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1607 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 30 (INTERFAX) — The Contact Group for Bosnia rejected Russia's proposal to suspend sanctions against Yugoslavia on the first day of peace talks and completely lift them as soon as a peace accord is signed, Russia's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Grigoriy Karasin told INTERFAX Monday.

Karasin recalled that it was Russia who had initiated work on lifting the sanctions in the U.N. Security Council. "Unfortunately, our partners by the Contact Group (the United States, U.K., France and Germany — IF note) did not support our ideas," he added.

Nevertheless, Moscow will still support lifting sanctions against Belgrade both in New York and Dayton. First Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov will represent Russia at talks between Serb, Croatian and Bosnian leaders in this city in Ohio, United States.

According to Karasin, "Moscow proceeds from the assumption that lifting sanctions against Belgrade would promote a sooner settlement of the Yugoslavia crisis."

Kozyrev Addresses Middle East Economic Conference

LD2910152095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1408 GMT 29 Oct 95

[By Yuriy Kozlov, Yuriy Lysechko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] AMMAN, October 29 (ITAR-TASS) — Russia is ready to contribute to the efforts to ensure a free economic movement at the Middle East crossroads of cooperation, said Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

He had the floor at the second international conference on economic development in the Middle East and North Africa which opened in Amman today.

The conference, whose honourary co-chairmen are Russian and U.S. Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton, is attended by delegations from almost 70 countries.

Yeltsin and Clinton sent to the conference a joint letter which expresses hope that the conference will open to international business specific investment projects and new economic and trade prospects in the region.

"Naturally, resolution of pan-regional tasks and implementation of major projects will require not only a full cooperation of the region's countries but also a broad mobilisation of financial and economic potentials of all interested states," Kozyrev said in his address to the conference.

He recalled close historical ties between Russia and the Middle East and voiced the hope that Russian business and state-owned factories with ample experience of work in the Middle East region would contribute to its projects.

Kozyrev stressed that the peace accord signed by Jordan and Israel a year ago and the recent Palestinian-Israeli agreement had provided a favourable political background for economic cooperation in the region.

However, "the transformation of the Middle East into a zone of stability will not be final without progress on Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli flanks," he said.

The three-day conference is to discuss investment projects involving state-owned and private capital.

The conference is expected to pass a resolution on setting up a regional bank for development and other cooperation formats.

The conference is to be made an annual event.

Sources in the Russian delegation told ITAR-TASS that Kozyrev is going to have several bilateral working meetings.

He has already met Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana in early hours of Sunday.

The Russian minister has on his schedule meetings with King Husayn of Jordan, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Palestinian Authority chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Briefs Press in Amman; Leaves for Murmansk

LD3010134595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1330 GMT 30 Oct 95

[By Viktor Lysechko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] AMMAN, October 30 (ITAR-TASS) — "For the first time since the 1991 Madrid peace conference, the Presidents of Russia and the United States came forward with a joint statement on the Middle East, which carried weight at the current economic summit here," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stated here on Monday before leaving Amman after attending the 2nd International summit conference on the economic development of the Near East and North Africa.

The Minister is of the opinion that this fact confirms the important role which Russia plays in the region as a co-sponsor of the Middle East peace process alongside the Americans.

Russia together with the U.S. also participates in the Middle East economic development, the beginning of which was set in Casablanca a year ago, Kozyrev emphasised.

In this connection, the Russian Foreign minister drew attention to the presence of a number of Russian bankers and businessman among the Russian delegation who have shown a lively interest in the Middle East and emerging regional financial institutions. "The major of them will be a Middle East Development Bank. Russia as a co-founder of the Bank will have strong positions in it. High positions in it have been assigned for Russian representatives," the Minister pointed out.

Touching upon Russo-Jordanian relations, Kozyrev pointed out that their "solid political foundation" provides an opportunity to develop cooperation in the economic field "where Russia's interest has not yet been fully realised, unfortunately".

"During Sunday's meeting with King Husayn, I delivered a personal message from the President of Russia to him. The Jordanian Monarch supported all our ideas about political and economic cooperation," the Minister said.

Kozyrev left Amman by air for Murmansk to attend an international investment conference on the subject "The resources of Northern regions".

Yeltsin Adviser Predicts Kozyrev's Dismissal

AU3010180995 Berlin BERLINER ZEITUNG
in German 25 Oct 95 p 7

[Interview with Sergey Karaganov, foreign policy adviser to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, by Manfred Quiring; place and date not given: "Betrayal by the West"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Quiring] Mr. Karaganov, you have just stated that you do not want to become the next Russian foreign minister. Who will succeed Andrey Kozyrev if he has to leave?

[Karaganov] Nobody knows at the moment, not even the president himself.

[Quiring] But Kozyrev will certainly be removed?

[Karaganov] Yes, either before the elections on 17 December or shortly afterward.

[Quiring] Why does Boris Yeltsin want to get rid of him?

[Karaganov] The president has been dissatisfied with Kozyrev for some time; above all, because of the complete collapse of the coordination of foreign policy and also because of the inefficiency of the administration at the Foreign Ministry, which has led to a crisis there. Finally, Kozyrev is unpopular with the political elite. He is a figure who harms the president.

[Quiring] Why? Is it not the president himself who determines the foreign policy strategy, whereas the foreign minister implements it? Is Kozyrev being turned into a scapegoat?

[Karaganov] This is not quite right. The president has a number of problems to solve. There is not enough time for him to deal with strategic foreign policy issues. Second: On a number of topics, Kozyrev did not meet the president's expectations.

[Quiring] What topics specifically?

[Karaganov] There is the problem of NATO expansion, which has been caused by zealous Western politicians. And there is, of course, Bosnia, where Russia is not sufficiently involved in finding a solution. Finally, there is Russia's general position in the world. The feeling prevails in Moscow that the world has stopped including Russia in its considerations. It may not be well founded, but the feeling does exist.

[Quiring] Here the impression prevails that the influence of the military on Russia's foreign policy has increased recently.

[Karaganov] I see no signs of a growing influence of the military.

[Quiring] Not even in connection with the planned NATO expansion?

[Karaganov] No, the entire Russian elite is protesting against that: civilian and military. Above all, the "Westerners" are against it. They view the plans as a serious danger for Russia's orientation toward the West. In a certain sense, this is a betrayal by the West of the interests of democratic Russia.

[Quiring] What alternative do you see?

[Karaganov] The goal of the current Russian foreign policy is to create an all-European security system.

[Quiring] The president has no time, the military does not interfere; who determines basic foreign policy guidelines?

[Karaganov] Nobody at the moment because the decisionmaking process is disorganized. Where decisions are still being made, the foreign minister makes them. At least until recently. Now his position has naturally been weakened decisively.

[Quiring] Does Russia need Western support and, if so, in what form?

[Karaganov] We need no Western help in our parliamentary elections. The West should not create obstacles for us: by expanding NATO, with unfortunate decisions on Bosnia, and by making promises that are not fulfilled.

Caspian Sea Resource Joint Declaration Released

LD3110094495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0850 GMT 31 Oct 95

[By Oleg Kuzmin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TEHRAN October 31 (ITAR-TASS) — Iranian-Russian talks ended here on Monday night with the adoption of a joint declaration, which reflects a common stand of Russia and Iran with regard to the exploitation of natural resources of the Caspian Sea. The Russian side was represented at the talks by a government delegation, led by Vice Premier Aleksey Bolshakov.

"Our approaches to a new legal status of the Caspian Sea are very close or identical," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Albert Chernyshev told TASS, commenting on the results of the talks. According to Chernyshev, the Russian conceptual framework of the status of the Caspian Sea was met with almost complete understanding by Teheran and Ashkhabad, but Baku and Almaty have their own ideas of how the oil and gas resources of the Caspian Sea should be used. "We hope to reach a compromise," Chernyshev stressed.

According to the document, signed by Bolshakov and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the two countries are positive that all the rights to the Caspian Sea and its resources belong to the Caspian littoral states, and to them alone, and they are the only ones who can jointly establish the rules of the activities in the Caspian Sea. They are the only ones who have strategic interests in the Caspian Sea, and no third country has the right to instruct them on the forms and methods of using its natural resources. No unilateral actions of Caspian states should be permitted, until the rules of the exploitation of mineral resources are set on the basis of an agreement between five Caspian states, the declaration said.

According to Chernyshev, Russia and Iran favour the speeding up of the process of defining a legal status of the Caspian Sea, which "slowed down a little." With this in view Bolshakov visited recently Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, and finished consultations in Iran.

During the two-day visit the Russian delegation held talks with Iranian First Vice President Hasan Habibi, Vice President Mohajerani, Oil Minister Gholam Reza

Agazadeh and Foreign Minister Velayati. They discussed questions dealing with bilateral trade and economic cooperation, and both sides stressed their intention to develop and strengthen it. The agenda of the talks included questions, connected with the settlement of conflicts in Tajikistan, Afghanistan and the Transcaucasian Region, an on those problems the stands of the two countries also appeared to be close or identical.

The Russian delegation leaves for Moscow today.

Iran To Pay Russia for Nuclear Powerplant in 1995

LD3110141395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1305 GMT 31 Oct 95

[By Oleg Kuzmin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TEHRAN, October 31 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Bolshakov on Tuesday met Iranian vice-premier in charge of the national nuclear programme Reza Amrollahi, a source close to the Russian delegation, led by Bolshakov, told ITAR-TASS.

The meeting which originally was not on the agenda of Bolshakov's visit focused at issues of bilateral cooperation in atomic power engineering.

According to the source, the sides agreed on a timetable of payments for the construction of a nuclear power plant in Bushehr. Tentatively, Iran will effect first payments before the end of 1995.

After the meeting the Russian delegation left for Moscow.

According to local media, the principal aim of the visit was to coordinate the two countries' positions on the determination of a new legal status of the Caspian Sea.

On Monday, an agreement on cooperation in prospecting and developing oil and gas fields in the Caspian Sea was reached at a meeting between Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i and Bolshakov.

The parties agreed to establish joint ventures to develop oil and gas fields in the Caspian Sea and to export oil from the region, and expressed readiness to attract Turkmenistan to cooperation as the third contracting party.

Minister: U.S. Must Observe 'One China' Principle

LD3010135495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1343 GMT 30 Oct 95

[By Marat Abulkhatin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BEIJING, October 30 (ITAR-TASS) — Strict observance by the United States of the earlier signed joint communiques, the "one China" principles and policy, and renunciation of any official contacts with Taiwan are the basis for the maintenance and development of stable inter-state relations between China and the U.S., Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen stated during a meeting with former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker here on Monday, informed sources told ITAR-TASS.

According to Qian, the Taiwan issue is the key problem in bilateral relations. The violation of the one-China principle by the U.S is an encroachment on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of China and is an affront to the national sentiments and dignity of the Chinese people, Qian said.

The Chinese foreign minister positively assessed the results of the recent meeting between Chinese President Jiang Zemin and U.S. President Bill Clinton in New York. The two presidents arrived at a common understanding of some matters concerning a further development of bilateral relations.

The U.S attaches much importance to developing relations with China, Baker stated. He said stability in relations between the two large countries is of great importance for the destiny of peace and progress. He admitted that the Taiwan issue is important from the viewpoint of positive development of relations between Beijing and Washington.

The two sides also emphasised that a regular meeting between the two Presidents in the Japanese city of Osaka in November this year will be of great importance for eliminating the existing contradictions and for drawing their positions on the Taiwan issue closer together.

In an estimate of prospects for the development of relations between Beijing and Washington, American representatives in Beijing have told ITAR-TASS that, whatever relations are established and develop between the two great powers, from the geopolitical points of view they will always remain important.

Fuel Minister Shafranik Arrives in Beijing

LD3110121395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1054 GMT 31 Oct 95

[By Marat Abulkhatin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BEIJING, October 31 (ITAR-TASS) — Matters aimed at widening bilateral cooperation are to be discussed by Yuriy Shafranik, Russian Minister of Fuel and Power, who arrived here on Tuesday at the head of a Russian delegation.

Shafranik is to meet with the leadership of the Chinese State Planning Committee and the Ministry of Power, with main attention to be devoted to the development of contacts between various sectors and enterprises of the Russian Ministry and Chinese partners.

The Russian Minister is expected to have a meeting with Li Peng, Premier of China's Council of State, on November 3.

Chinese Envoy Meets Russian Armed Forces Chiefs

LD3010200295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1510 GMT 30 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 30 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — Andrey Kokoshin, Russian first deputy defense minister and Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the General Staff of the Russian Federation's Armed Forces, had a meeting with LI Fenglin, China's ambassador to Russia today (Monday, 30 October).

Current problems of international security and Russian-Chinese cooperation in military and technical areas were discussed in the course of the meeting.

ITAR-TASS was told by Russian Defense Ministry sources that "both sides registered a tangible progress in the development of mutual Russian-Chinese relations, including military-political and military-technical areas."

Let us recall that Lieutenant General Petr Deynekin, commander in chief of the Russian Air Force, has recently paid an official visit of friendship to China. Commenting on the results of the visit, he said "Russia will strengthen military contacts with China and facilitate in every way the development of friendship and cooperation between the Air Forces of both countries." He said several dozen Chinese pilots had been trained in Russia and were qualified as pilots of the Russian Su-27 planes.

According to ITAR-TASS data, about 30 Su-27 fighters have been delivered to China over the past few years. China is currently interested in getting a new batch of the Russian Su-27 and Su-35 planes. Apart from that, the Chinese side wants to produce the planes on licence at home.

Officials at the Defense Ministry and at the Rosvooruzheniye state company have, however, refrained from making any comment on the prospects for Russian military sales to China.

DPRK-Bound Kazakh Weapons May Be Confiscated

LD3110121795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1051 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VLADIVOSTOK, Oct 31 (INTERFAX-EURASIA) — The train containing artillery guns from Kazakhstan detained on October 20 in Khasan, the Far East, will not proceed to North Korea before an appropriate decision by the Russian government. The weapons can be either sent to their destination or confiscated, acting chief of the Far Eastern Customs Department Vitaliy Kirsanov told INTERFAX-EURASIA Tuesday.

He said the 17 open freight cars containing artillery guns remain in Khasan and their advancement to North Korea is out of the question.

The announcement by Kazakh Defense Minister Alibek Kasymov at an Almaty news conference on October 27 that the problem has been resolved and the train has left the station can be accounted for by the minister's lack of knowledge of Russian customs regulations, Kirsanov said.

The train was detained not because of the absence of accompanying documents, Kirsanov said, but because the customs code bans the transit of foreign military cargos through Russia.

Chernomyrdin Appeals to Bhutto on Russian Aircrew

LD3010184595 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Viktor Chernomyrdin has appealed to Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto for assistance in releasing the crew of the Russian aircraft which is being kept in Afghanistan by the Taleban opposition movement. The RIA agency reports that the Russian prime minister's letter was handed to the Pakistani leadership in Islamabad by special Russian envoy Aleksandr Ablov. The document stresses the need to solve the problem as soon as possible and says that Moscow is ready for constructive interaction with Taleban in order to release the Russian citizens.

Better Approach May Help Release Crew

LD3110115595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1128 GMT 31 Oct 95

[By Oleg Kuzmin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TEHRAN October 31 (ITAR-TASS) — "As a result of efforts, exerted by Russian diplomats, an interesting turn for the better became evident recently in the approach of the Taliban movement of Afghanistan to the release of the crew of a Russian plane, kept by them, and to Russia in general," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Albert Chernyshev told TASS here today. He refused to disclose the details, because it was too early for that, and only expressed hope that the turn would lead to an early release of the Russian citizens. Chernyshev denounced those who urge to launch a combat operation for liberating the hostages. He said it was easy to put forward such ideas for those, who live in Russia. "We do not want to risk the lives of seven people for the sake of somebody's ambitions," Chernyshev said.

Aside from regular contacts with Talibs, he continued, Moscow uses other channels, which might be of help. Specifically, Russia appealed for help to the United Nations Organisation, the Islamic Conference, the King of Morocco who is the Islamic Conference Chairman now, the King of Saudi Arabia who is highly respected by Talibs, and to Pakistan. Several days ago messages of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin about the situation with Russian pilots were sent to Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and the United States, which can also influence to some extent the developments in Afghanistan. Some other countries, including Iran, were also asked to help resolve the problem, Chernyshev said.

Speaking about contacts with the Taliban movement, Chernyshev pointed out that the beginning of those contacts was not easy, first of all because of their biassed attitude to Russia (they saw no difference between Russia and the Soviet Union). It is only recently that they began to realise that it is a different country now. "While explaining to Talibs that their actions are illegal from the point of view of international law, we, seeking to alleviate the situation, agreed to accept lists of Afghan nationals whom they believe to be missing," Chernyshev said.

"For the Afghan side it is a painful problem, because, according to the sharia laws, the heritage of the missing person cannot be divided, and his widow cannot get married again, until it is found out what happened to her husband. We stated that there are no Afghan nationals in Russian prisons (with a possible exception of those who committed criminal offences), and suggested that Talibs should visit Russia and meet heads of some Russian institutions, specifically the Federal Security Service and the External Intelligence Servece, representatives of the Armed Forces, as well as those ethnic Afghans, who settled in Russia on their own free will."

START II Debate Could Alter Security Strategy

MK3110124495 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Oct 95 p 2

[Article by Vladimir Trofimov: "START II Can Either Be Sunk or Suspended. Power Men Nurture New National Security Strategy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The long-suffering START II Treaty recently put before the Duma for ratification could, it appears, become a turning point for Russia's entire nuclear deterrence policy. As usual, the treaty has its advocates and opponents. The opponents have three options for what to do about the treaty.

The first one is to propose it for ratification before the end of the current session in the shape submitted by the president and to vote it down. The second option is more intricate legally: To submit it for ratification immediately, but with some provisos that would make it possible, under the pretext of the country's difficult economic situation, to take out of it all the commitments unpleasant for Russia: the dismantling of missile silos, the conversion of ground-based missiles, scrapping multiple warheads, and so on.

Generally speaking, international law does not directly forbid the inclusion of provisos in bilateral treaties, but many scholars think this undignified. You first agree about one thing, and then you confront the other country with a totally new text. It is true that Russia is on record as having already concluded bilateral treaties with provisos. In the given case it is clear that the Americans will not like it, at which point the whole START II story will be over.

From the political point of view, the difference between the options is not all that important. Of course, the refusal to ratify this important document would touch off a wave of criticism of Russia in the same manner French nuclear testing did. On the other hand, the present Duma is living out its last days and many things would be put down to the deputies' stupidity. The option involving provisos is more vulnerable legally, the more so because it lands Russian diplomats in a stupid situation. However, considering the propaganda effect, it is clearly better to ratify it than to throw it out, because what is important for the ordinary citizen is the very fact [of ratification], rather than some legal niceties.

There is also a third option for rejecting the treaty. It is not ruled out that its ratification will be simply postponed indefinitely. This is quite probable, all the more so because there is now in the president's power entourage muffled dissatisfaction with the fact that the Americans have been ignoring Russia too much of late. They have in mind NATO's expansion, the bombing of the Serbs, and the program to upgrade missile defenses; hence the desire to "suspend" the treaty so as to teach the Americans a lesson. It would not last long in this state, of course, because the deadline for scrapping the missiles would arrive and the treaty would simply become obsolete. In this event, either the talks would have to be resumed, or the idea of bilateral Russian-American arms reductions would be buried.

Representatives of power structures dealing with this question seem to realize rather well what the real consequences of postponing ratification might entail. They seem to be not so much interested in having a lever to pressure the Americans as in having the policy of nuclear deterrence fundamentally reformed and in spending as little as possible to achieve the greatest effect.

There are also supporters of ratification of the treaty in the Duma. Nevertheless, they too would most likely suggest that a statement be made at the time of ratification or perhaps even that provisos be included in it. The provisos may be to the effect that Russia will honor the treaty only if the Americans honor the 1972 ABM Treaty and if the country had sufficient funds. As for the latter, this is, of course, no obstacle....

Things are more complicated regarding the 1972 ABM Treaty. The Americans actually violated it by adopting a new program for their ABM defense. Specialists believe it will not formally come into conflict with the treaty before the year 2003. Thus, a proviso might prove quite acceptable to the United States, and one would be able to consider Russia's ratification of START II with the above two conditions as unconditional approval.

Will the Duma support ratification? In practical terms, it would be enough to kill the motion if 80 or so people simply do not vote, because it is rare that more than 300 deputies are present in the chamber. The CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] alone has thus far clearly spoken out against START II and at the same time demanded that the question of ratification be considered during the present session. Time will tell if there are people in the other factions who oppose the treaty.

However, the future of START II is more obvious than the prospects that senior leaders will alter their views on the problems of the country's security. In the past, we stubbornly tried to match the Americans even in the number of warheads and missiles. This race must have been one of our fateful strategic errors. A huge amount of money was wasted, and we are deservedly back at square one. You cannot blame the military people for that. In any country, no matter how much money you give them, it proves too little. The big question is what our civilian strategists were thinking about.

It is quite clear now that we are not going to have military parity with the United States. And perhaps there is no need to? Maybe it is wiser to only have a guarantee of nuclear retribution in regard to any potential adversary. Damage from even several warheads exploding on its territory is unacceptable to the United States, even if we contrive not to affect that country's vital interests. In the case of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea or other potential adversaries, this threshold could prove higher. In any case, however, it is absurd to calculate how many times over we can destroy life on earth and how many times over the Americans can do so.

That being so, one should draw the line at the minimum number of nuclear weapons — specialists cite approximately 1,000 warheads — continue work on improving existing advanced military technology, take effective strategic equipment out of mothballs, and destroy only what has become obsolete. And always think about being reasonably thrifty. Disarmament treaties with the Americans seeking any sort of equality are for us an absurdly ruinous, hence, a dangerous gamble. Our military people ought to abandon their attempts to wangle more funds for themselves using international treaties. This will lead to no good.

Let the United States spent its entire budget on funding nuclear and antimissile arms programs. It is quite obvious that no SDI, in the foreseeable future, will give 100-percent protection from a retaliatory strike. This is what a policy of sensible and economical nuclear deterrence is all about.

A special question is — how realistic is the employment of nuclear weapons? First, an adversary only fears weapons that can be used. Second, it is most unlikely that the spread of nuclear arms can be prevented. This is a separate subject, but there are, however, grounds to claim this. Third, one should discriminate between the chances of employing strategic and tactical weapons. For example, the military situation taking shape around the islands in the Southern Kuril chain is so disturbing that should there be serious instability in Russia, it is hard to imagine by what means it would be possible to prevent the Japanese from peacefully settling these islands under the protection of the American umbrella. Furthermore, the Japanese, it appears, do not rule out the transformation of their country into a nuclear power.

In trying to decide to what extent to cut our own arsenal of weapons of mass destruction, one should hardly ignore some of the public statements by the United States' top officials. It follows from them that, for example, the only obstacle to recognizing Chechnya's independence is the threat of a chain reaction of Russia's total disintegration and the spreading of weapons of mass destruction around the world.

The above ideas have already been aired in one form or another by our power officials. Soon, perhaps, they will be talking about updating the strategy of national security by including in it some clearer and more rational guidelines.

Ukraine's Linking of CFE, BSF 'Groundless'

LD3010162395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1431 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 30 (INTERFAX) — Moscow considers totally groundless Kiev's attempts to try to blame Russia for its own failure to comply with part of flank limitations set by the Conventional Forces in Europe agreement (CFE), a senior Russian diplomat told INTERFAX.

He said Ukraine had announced recently in Vienna its inability to honor some of its obligations under the CFE deal until it shared out the Black Sea Fleet (BSF) with Russia.

The diplomat said the problem of BSF cuts is dependent on both Moscow and Kiev since the Fleet is run jointly by the Russian and Ukrainian presidents.

Nor will Russia be able to comply in full with its own commitments in respect of Marine or land-based weapons in Crimea, he said.

The diplomat said the BSF was integral and as such could not be divided.

Moscow UN Refugee Camp Closing; Inmates Relocating

MM3110095395 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Oct 95 p 6

[Report by Gennadiy Charodeyev: "United Nations To Release 2,000 More Down-and-Outs Onto Moscow Streets"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The editorial office has been telephoned by Kurdish inmates of UN refugee camps in Moscow Oblast. One of them — called Mansur — insistently asked for the newspaper to inform the Russian authorities that several thousand foreigners who have left their countries in search of a better life in Russia will shortly find themselves on the streets without means of existence and winter clothing. "Are we to go into the forests?" the desperate Kurd shrieked down the telephone.

According to IZVESTIYA, the leadership of the French nongovernment organization Equilibre, which provides financial assistance for people seeking asylum in Russia, has decided to disband one of four camps in the Zelenograd area. Until now around 300 people from Asia, Africa, and the Near and Middle East have led a fairly pitiful existence at this former Soviet treatment center.

Christopher Carpenter, a regional representative of the UN High Commission for Refugees in Russia, answered IZVESTIYA's question by saying that the rumors of the total closure of all four camps in Moscow Oblast are grossly exaggerated. The Afghans, Kurds, and Somalis in Verbilki and the former Chekhov sanatorium in Istrinskiy Rayon will simply have to squeeze up. There is enough room for everyone. Inmates of the UN camps have no need to worry at least until early next year: They will carry on being provided with money, food, and warm clothing.

According to migration agencies' inadequate data, over 0.5 million (according to other figures, around 1 million — author's note) foreign citizens and stateless persons are currently uninvited guests in our country, and most of them are in Russia illegally. The number rises daily by 150-200. The prospect of an uncontrolled invasion of illegal migrants scared the West, which has erected an "iron curtain" with a bang. The mass of refugees preparing to go there have spent many years in Russian "treatment centers."

Where are these people to go if they are robbed of the last roof over their head? The Russian authorities have nothing to do with them. Many leading a life of semi-poverty are already trying to make a living independently. The police claim that some are working in commercial structures while the rest have taken to a life of crime. It is easy to imagine what the roughly 2,000 former inmates of the UN "treatment centers" in Moscow Oblast would prefer to do.

Georgian-Ossetian Conflict Settlement Begins

LD3010160495 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1405 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 30 Oct (IPRINDA) — A working meeting to settle the Georgian-Ossetian conflict started on 30 October in Vladikavkaz. On 30 October, Kazimierz Kurowski, the press attache for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE], told an agency correspondent that a group of experts participating in the meeting in Vladikavkaz will discuss the issue of working out a political basis for the settlement of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict. Deputy Prime Minister Irakli Menagharishvili heads the Georgian delegation at the talks. The Russian delegation is led by N. Medvedev, Russian deputy foreign minister for CIS matters [name and title as received]. The OSCE is represented at the talks by Ambassador Dieter Boden, the head of the OSCE mission in Georgia. The working meeting will end on 3 November.

Intelligence Activity in Germany 'Nothing Unusual'

LD3010154095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1502 GMT 30 Oct 95

[By Viktor Khrekov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 30 (ITAR-TASS) — "There is nothing unusual in the fact that the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service continues to operate in Germany," an intelligence official said.

The statement followed an article published by DER SPIEGEL which quoted the federal department for the protection of the Constitution as saying that 165 Russian secret agents, known to the German side, are operating in Germany.

Yuriy Kobaladze, a spokesman for the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, told ITAR-TASS on Monday that "we have never said that we will withdraw from there. But nor have we heard any statements from Bonn that the German intelligence is going to leave Russia."

"I want to stress that we do not do anything in Germany which the German intelligence does not do in Russia," he added.

Kokoshin Meets With Slovak Counterpart in Moscow

MM3110111495 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Russian Federation Defense Ministry Information Directorate: "At the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Andrey Kokoshin, Russian Federation first deputy minister of defense, met 27 October with J. Gajdos, secretary of state at the Slovak Ministry of Defense, who is in Moscow.

There was a fruitful exchange of opinions on a wide range of problems of European security. Questions of bilateral Russian-Slovak cooperation, including in the military sphere, were also discussed.

In the changed geopolitical situation it is necessary to build new security systems, A. Kokoshin pointed out. He confirmed Russia's negative attitude to the plans for the NATO bloc's eastward expansion. This could undermine the existing system of basic treaties ensuring European security, the Russian Federation first deputy minister of defense emphasized.

Political Issues

Further Reportage, Commentary on Yeltsin's Illness

Mrs. Yeltsin: President 'Feeling Better'

LD3110120395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1147 GMT 31 Oct 95

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 31 (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian President's wife, Naina Yeltsin, looked relaxed as she told journalists in the Radisson-Slavyanskaya hotel today that the President was recovering from his heart trouble and she felt happy about the news.

"I can tell you with a sense of relief that Boris Nikolayevich is feeling better," Mrs. Yeltsin said after attending a ceremony in which the American company Bristol-Meyers conveyed medicines for Russian children.

Mrs. Yeltsin said she had visited her husband in Moscow's Central Clinical Hospital where he is undergoing treatment for his heart problem at about 08.30 on Tuesday morning.

She said "all this has been reported officially and no one deceives anyone. As concerns more frequent reports and the issue of daily bulletins, I do not think it is necessary because his condition is not so serious, and then it makes people nervous."

Mrs. Yeltsin asked not to "force the situation and take things more quietly, there is no need for all this hullabaloo about the President's state of health."

"Of course, we all feel worried, his family in the first place, but I do not think that one should discuss his capability as soon as the President falls ill, or say that the (nuclear) button is not controlled. This results in frightening people even more, and all this when life here is far from quiet as it is. Neither the press nor television should do so," Mrs. Yeltsin said.

"One should treat not only the President and his family but also the Russian people with some understanding, humanely, because many of them are worried in a kind way about the President's health because he has done much good for Russia, and it is impossible to ignore the fact," she said.

Mrs. Yeltsin said her own work schedule has undergone no changes following the hospitalization of the President: "I do not have that much public work to do, but I attended the meetings yesterday and the day before yesterday which I had been scheduled to attend."

"It is not true — as reported on television, I think — that the entire family is now there (in the hospital). Naturally, we all go to see Boris Nikolayevich, and I think every family would do the same, that is visit a person who has fallen ill. But certainly we do not sit at his bedside all the time. This is simply fanning the tension. And what there is to say about his state of health, the doctors will say," she said.

Asked about Boris Yeltsin's disposition, his wife said, "I cannot say he is in high spirits being in the hospital. Of course he wants to leave the place as soon as possible. And I talk to him and ask the doctors to have him take the full course of treatment because when he had a heart attack last he did not take the full course, and his appointments resumed literally a week later."

According to Mrs Yeltsin, the President's heart trouble this time was caused by "the difficult flight to New York. The landing was very difficult, the weather was bad there and it took them very long to land. It was very hard to stand, in general."

"Boris Nikolayevich takes such loads very hard particularly with that great time difference," Naina Yeltsin told reporters.

She said the President had resumed work this time around as well. "Yesterday he had papers brought in to sign. I mean he undoubtedly cannot get away from all the current work he has to shoulder. And he will work more and more actively with every passing day," Naina Yeltsin said.

Illness Seen Causing Panic Abroad

MM3110114095 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 31 Oct 95 p 2

[Article by Feliks Babitskiy: "Test of Power"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The president's illness is a test not only of Boris Nikolayevich's strength and attitude of mind but also of those of the numerous aspirants to power. The behavior of some was not hard to predict. Viktor Ilyukhin, the communist leader, for example, said, as always, that he had long been insisting on the adoption of a law on the medical examination of "first persons" and that, if he had been listened to.... Mr. Zhirinovskiy's behavior also proved predictable, for he hastened to contrast the president's ailment with his own robust health. According to the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, he has just had a medical checkup, which established that it would even be "possible to drink" his — pardon me — urine.

But these are all party leaders whose profession is the struggle for power. What about those who already have it — power?

Understandably, they are not in the mood for talking — they have to run the country. Therefore glib reporters themselves made haste to speak up for them. Almost as soon as it heard that the president had been hospitalized, one of the popular Moscow newspapers at once proclaimed "the end of the Yeltsin era" and raised the question of his "legal heir." Most of the anonymous material was devoted to the figure of Viktor Chernomyrdin. At the same time his competence and, in particular, his modesty — he would never raise this question himself "while the president lives" — were painted in such vivid colors that, on reading it, I kept on asking myself: What is this — a desire to curry favor with the "future acting" [president] or a veiled denunciation of the premier so as to clear the way for one of his enviers? Not that this is important — an obliging fool is worse than an enemy.

Boris Yeltsin's indisposition has also caused panic abroad. Eurovision transmitted sensational pictures all over Europe: A British member of parliament reports the death of Yeltsin, and his colleagues launch into a debate on the subject "What now?" But, even after learning that the British had been somewhat too hasty to go into mourning, one U.S. reporter asked quite seriously at a White House news conference whether U.S. troops had been placed on red alert.

But no one can compare in sensitivity with business circles. As is known, the dollar is considered the most stable currency, but it always gets more expensive at times of world upheavals. So, the gates of the Central Clinical Hospital had barely closed behind the presidential limousine before the dollar went up by 1 percent against the German mark. No wonder, since Germany is our splendid trading partner. World oil prices increased steeply, and shares in our aluminum enterprises started to depreciate.

After all this it is not surprising that, according to the poll data of the "Public Opinion" Foundation, Boris Yeltsin remains the most influential politician in the country, even while he is in hospital.

Get well soon, Boris Nikolayevich!

Career Said 'Coming To an End'

OW3110111595 Tokyo TOKYO SHIMBUN Morning Edition in Japanese 30 Oct 95 p 3

[By correspondent Hitoshi Inakuma]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 29 October — The condition of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who was re-hospitalized on 26 October for heart failure (heart attack), appears to be worse than thought. Doctors in charge have said the president will need to undergo medical treatment until the end of November, and that no one except his family will be allowed to see him for a while. Medical experts have said Yeltsin is not in danger of dying, noting he will recover his heart functions by receiving medical treatment for a long time. However, his current condition does not allow him to do the hard work of a president who is authorized to decide whether or not to press a nuclear button. Thus, the prevailing view is it is impossible for Yeltsin to run in the presidential election slated for next June.

According to an official announcement by doctors in charge, Yeltsin's heart and artery functions have weakened, which has caused insufficient blood circulation and may lead to anemia. But his blood pressure and body temperature remain normal. Even after receiving emergency treatment upon arrival at the hospital, the president did not lose consciousness. There is no possibility of his condition taking a sudden turn for the worse, the doctors said.

However, when Yeltsin was hospitalized in July, not only his family but also some presidential aides such as First Presidential Aide Ilyushin and Korjakov [name as published], presidential guard division chief, were allowed to see him. A week after the hospitalization, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin visited Yeltsin, who looked good when the visit was televised. The president was discharged from the hospital two weeks later. This time, however, it is not certain when he will be released, and even his aides are not allowed to see him. After he left the hospital in July, Yeltsin stayed at a sanatorium for treatment. In August he returned to the Kremlin. From 11 September until his next vacation, Yeltsin worked hard every day in order to stifle rumors that he was not in good health.

A Kremlin source said that until mid-September the president abstained from drinking on his doctors' advice. But afterwards, he began drinking little by little, the source said. It is said that in addition to such hard tasks as the handling of the former SFRY issue and a trip to France and the United States from 20-24 October, his increased drinking, as observed at a dinner with President Bill Clinton where he had several glasses of wine, caused his second heart attack.

Mr. Osipov, an authority on cardiac disease, said: "The president suffers from chronic blood circulation insufficiency. This is evident in his short breath and swollen face. What is worse, the insufficiency is worsening as time passes. Initially, it occurred when he felt stress or drank. But now, even with light fatigue the president has anemia."

However, domestic and foreign experts' comments printed in a Russian newspaper indicate if Yeltsin refrains from drinking and hard work, his illness will not endanger his life.

Attention is focused on Yeltsin's future course of action. Physically he has already lost the ability to carry out presidential duties, thus his political career is coming to an end. However, the present government has failed to prepare for the post-Yeltsin era and to work out a strategy for maintaining power. It is believed that Yeltsin will not resign before his proposed nuclear energy summit is held in Moscow next April, but at around that time he will announce his decision to give up any bid to seek reelection.

Constitutional Aspect of Illness Viewed

MM3110114595 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Oct 95 p 2

[Article by Andrey Rumyantsev: "President's Illness. Seen From Constitutional Angle"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The situation that has arisen in connection with President Yeltsin's illness primarily needs to be examined from the legal angle. Russian Federation Law, or to be more precise, the Constitution, may prove to be the only arbiter capable of reconciling, as far as possible, opposing views and setting the political struggle in a civilized context.

Chapter 4 of the Russian Federation Constitution, "The President of the Russian Federation," regulates in a fairly detailed manner matters pertaining to the status and activity of the head of state. It is necessary to remember that the norms enshrined in the Russian Federation Constitution are direct-acting.

Under Article 92 Section 2 of the Russian Federation Constitution the president of the Russian Federation ceases to exercise his powers early in the event of his resignation, persistent inability to exercise his powers for health reasons, or removal from office. Current legislation does not define "persistent inability," nor does it articulate the procedure whereby this norm may be enforced. All this indicates that from the purely legal viewpoint it is extremely hard to apply this provision.

Article 92 Section 3 of the Russian Federation Constitution is different. According to this section in ALL instances where the president of the Russian Federation is unable to perform his duties, they are temporarily carried out by the chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation.

Such a wide-ranging wording — "in all instances" — enables one to believe that the only exception to this rule is envisaged by Article 92 Section 2 of the Russian Federation Constitution. All that is needed to apply this norm is the very fact of the president's being unable to perform his duties.

This norm needs no clarification, the nature of the wording enables it to be applied quite unequivocally. In the event of the situation envisaged here the chairman of the government automatically begins to perform the duties constitutionally assigned to the president. All those questions that the president should tackle are tackled by the chairman of the government.

Admittedly, there are certain restrictions. Thus, the acting president does not have the right to dissolve the State Duma, schedule a referendum, or submit proposals on amendments to and the revision of provisions of the Constitution of the Russian Federation.

Chernomyrdin: Ministers 'Deal With Me'

LD3010195695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1853 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 30 (INTERFAX) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said President Boris Yeltsin is now better than when he was hospitalized to the Central Clinical Hospital last Thursday.

"At least, now he is better than he was initially," Chernomyrdin told an INTERFAX correspondent while visiting the Moscow oil refinery today.

Chernomyrdin said he had been in touch with the president's doctors that day. He said the doctors had recommended that Yeltsin was not disturbed. "I think this is quite right. The president should have medical treatment," Chernomyrdin said.

When questioned as to who power ministers were to subordinate, Chernomyrdin said: "While the president is ill, (power ministers) deal with me."

Chernomyrdin added that he had never avoided the settlement of important problems for the country. "Premier Chernomyrdin never avoided anything," he said.

"All problems which are being decided in the country were always coordinated with the president," Chernomyrdin said. He said the president "has trusted" him "on all matters" and "entrusts" him with "all problems which are, let's put it directly, not characteristic for the government."

"No problems ever arose here. Everything is and will be as it was," Chernomyrdin said.

Doctors To Permit Meeting With Aides

LD3010220895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2143 GMT 30 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 31 October (ITAR-TASS) — Doctors said there are encouraging signs that Russian President Boris Yeltsin's health is improving. Sources in the central clinical hospital, where the president is recovering from a heart attack, told ITAR-TASS on 30 October that "there are signs of improvement" in his condition. "The blood supply of the heart has stabilized and there were no incidents of cardiac insufficiency during the entire course of treatment in hospital," they said. The sources quoted cardiologists as saying that "it would be advisable for (the president), even if he begins to recover fast, to remain under doctors' control in hospital for at least three weeks."

According to the sources the reason for this, in particular, is the fact that following the previous exacerbation of his ischemic heart condition in July of this year, Yeltsin "clearly failed to complete the treatment." At that time, the president stayed in the clinic only 15 days. Moreover, sources noted, once he has been discharged from the central clinical hospital, the president must undergo a course of treatment in a sanatorium for at least two weeks and must work sparingly.

According to the sources, doctors do not rule out, in connection with the improvement in the president's mood, that he will be able to have a short meeting with some of his closest aides on 31 October. Earlier, as is known, doctors did not recommend visits to the head of state, regarding working contacts as inexpedient. Yeltsin was only accompanied by doctors involved in the treatment, his personal bodyguards, and members of his family. At the same time, doctors insist that the president's contact with his staffers should be short.

Isakov Urges Yeltsin To Sign Federation Council Law

LD3010193995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1918 GMT 30 Oct 95

[By Ivan Novikov and Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 30 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has all the reasons to sign the bill on the Federation Council into law, a Russian deputy said.

Vladimir Isakov, Chairman of the Duma Committee for Legislation, and Judicial and legal Reform, said on Monday that the bill passed by the lower house last Friday — after overruling the Federation Council's veto — contains three points which differ it from the president's version.

One of them stipulates that the Federation Council should be composed of popularly elected heads of legislative and executive bodies of power from regions. Isakov also warned against attempts to delay the polls, adding that they "must take place before presidential elections" scheduled for June 1996.

Commenting on press reports that Russian Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko intends to ask the president not to sign the draft law, Isakov pointed out that "attempts to block this legislative act look like indecent intrigues aimed at retaining the post of the speaker of the upper house."

Rumor of Grachev Appointment as Vice Premier Viewed

MM3010152295 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 28 Oct 95 p 1

["Own information" report: "...Will Vice Premier Grachev Go to Groznyy?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Federation president's attitude to Pavel Grachev seems to have started to change. There is quite a lot of evidence for this, ranging from Yeltsin's vote for Grachev's resignation at the memorable Security Council session to the recommendation that the general attend the court session in the "Poegli case." So the talk in Kremlin offices of the possible prospect of Grachev's "honorary" appointment as the president's deputy in Chechnya (with the rank of first vice premier) should hardly be regarded as a groundless rumor.

Recent events, ranging from the premier's transparent allusion to the interest of some military men in the imposition of a state of emergency in Chechnya to the means of "making peace" with the chief editor of a well-known newspaper, merely exacerbate the situation....

In the opinion of observers, such a step by Yeltsin will enable the president to kill several birds with a single stone: to replace Oleg Lobov in Chechnya, a builder by calling and profession, who found himself with nothing to do in a Groznyy which was in fact at war; to enable Grachev, who has repeatedly advocated a strong-arm solution to the Chechen problem, to find a use for his gifts as a military leader; and to take public opinion into consideration, as it were, on the eve of the elections, having gotten rid of the least popular minister.

Communications Company Chief Murdered at Home

LD3010180395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1651 GMT 30 Oct 95

[By Larisa Kislinskaya]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 30 (ITAR-TASS) — A Russian communications company leader was murdered in his home in Moscow late on Sunday.

Rosteleset Board Chairman Magomed-Rasul Galanguseynov, 38, was shot dead point blank on the staircase of his home at Timiryazevskaya Street 11 where he rented an apartment.

Moscow Criminal Police told ITAR-TASS on Monday that investigators found a TT gun, two bullets and two spent cases at the site of the murder.

Investigators are checking two leads, including the ones connected with Galanguseynov's professional activity.

Legislators Meet With Council of Europe Team

MM3110110495 Moscow PRAVDA-5 in Russian 27 Oct-2 Nov 95 p 11

[Report by Mikhail Levchenko: "Russia and the Council of Europe"]

[FBIS Translated Text] During the last few days in October the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Commission for Relations With European Non-Member Countries convened in Moscow for a session. Russia, which inherited from the USSR "special invitee" status, has, as you know, 18 seats at this highly prestigious European assembly.

The guests at this roundtable held at Moscow's President Hotel were more insistent this time than ever in their desire to learn from Sergey Filatov, Anatoliy Vengerov, Anatoliy Dolgolaptev, Gennadiy Zyuganov, Gennadiy Seleznev, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, and Vladimir Lukin — members of Russia's delegation to the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly — the true disposition of political and social sentiments in the country.

How the election results in Russia will affect the European political scene, whether these elections will take place at all, and what is going on in Chechnya — that represents an incomplete list of the questions that literally rained down on Russian legislators and representatives of the executive. A Finnish delegation member, who was interested in Chechnya and who utterly disconcerted Sergey Filatov with information on the "war-torn" republic that patently came from non-Russian sources, was particularly assiduous.

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy cooled Western parliamentarians' ardor by saying in his usual nontraditional manner that Russia does not need to be a member of the Council of Europe. He justified this by saying that all Russia's current woes originate from Europe. In his view, it is earnestly embroiling Russia in the Balkan war. The answers given by Gennadiy Zyuganov, leader of the Communist Duma faction, and the report by Duma Deputy Chairman Gennadiy Seleznev were heard with interest.

It is interesting to note that, from the Western viewpoint, the unique interpretation of human rights in Russia is perhaps the only obstacle today to our country's joining the Council of Europe. That was at least the indication given by Western parliamentarians at this meeting.

Our correspondent was told by Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the State Duma Committee for International Affairs, that "if there are none of the characteristic political surprises in Russia in the near future (the reference being to the elections) the question of Russia's membership of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly may be resolved fairly rapidly. And even Zhirinovskiy will 'not save the situation.'"

Economic Ministry Official Warns Farmers of APR

LD2810165295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1421 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 28 (INTERFAX) — Russian farmers' main enemy is the Agrarian Party of Russia [APR] led by Mikhail Lapshin, Deputy Economic Minister Ivan Starikov told a conference on land reform in Moscow Saturday.

Lobbying in parliament in favor of agriculture, the APR seeks to write off its debts, Starikov said. However, "the more debts are written off, the lower is agriculture's output," he added.

According to Starikov, the state support of agriculture is "indecently high": 65 trillion rubles this year, including 13 trillion rubles allocated from the budget and 25 trillion rubles of written off loans.

Starikov said the government was considering a draft resolution "to stabilize the situation in the agroindustrial complex, whose implementation will cost the state nearly 100 trillion rubles."

The land reform conference is organized by the election bloc Democratic Choice of Russia-United Democrats.

The participants exchanged opinions on the progress of agrarian reform in Russia on the eve of the parliamentary elections.

The election bloc includes Yegor Gaydar's Democratic Choice of Russia, Yuriy Chernichenko's Party of Russian Farmers, Aleksandr Yakovlev's Social Democratic Party, Congress of Ethnic Communities of Russia, Military for Democracy and Women for Solidarity.

Funds for 2-Year Anti-Crime Program Not Allocated

LD2910175995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1731 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 29 (INTERFAX) — The two-year federal anti-crime program drawn up by the Russian interior ministry will cost about 25 trillion rubles to implement, well-informed sources told INTERFAX. Although the program was worked out on orders from the federal government, no allocations are envisaged in the next year budget to put it in place.

The sources said the ministry needed at least 1.1 trillion rubles worth of spending to be able to increase the police strength by 90,000 members in 1996. The finance ministry allocated funds covering the upkeep of only 79,000 out of the 169,000 new members envisaged in the 1994-1995 program for fighting against crime.

A projected rise in the police strength is prompted by the doubling of crime rates in Russia compared with the same indicator when the Soviet Union was still alive. As the Russian army is reduced, a chance has now emerged for manning the country's police force by army servicemen.

MVD Wage Arrears Must Be Paid Off 'Within Two Weeks'

MM3110090295 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 27 Oct 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Wage Arrears Will Be Paid to the MVD"]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Boris Yeltsin has given instructions to Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov to ensure that the arrears in the payment of wages, subsidies, and compensation to the personnel of internal affairs organs and Russian Federation Internal Troops servicemen are paid off within two weeks. Thus the president has reacted to the appeal he received from Internal Affairs Minister Anatoliy Kulikov concerning the most serious situation that has taken shape as regards the payment of wages to staffers of the department headed by him.

Our information. As ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI was told by the Kremlin press service, A. Kulikov notably informed the head of state that, despite the paying off of arrears in the payment of wages for July, August, and partially September, there has been no fundamental breakthrough in this matter. That is why all Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD] subunits are owed over a month's wages, and in a number of cases, two months' wages.

Soskovets: Government To Support ZIL-Caterpillar Projects

LD3010200595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1952 GMT 30 Oct 95

[By Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 30 (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian government intends to support the ZIL automobile plant and its joint projects with the U.S. group of companies "Caterpillar," Russian First Vice-Premier Oleg Soskovets said at a meeting with officials of "Caterpillar" here today.

The Cabinet of Ministers strives for easing ZIL's economic situation and support the plant by placing the Defence Ministry orders. At the same time, the government is considering the possibility of using part of debts to East European countries, Egypt and Syria, which are using vehicles manufactured by ZIL to modernize the enterprise.

ZIL's market in the CIS countries should not be lost, the vice-premier noted. People have become used to this type of machines, which also have after-sale service, he said. Soskovets called on the "Caterpillar" management to help the Russian auto giant create a system of marketing, which under market conditions does not exist at all in ZIL.

Soskovets sees other avenues of bilateral cooperation in the modernisation of the Cheboksar tractor plant. "It has a unique production, although the quality of its production evokes many complaints", he noted. In this context, Soskovets emphasised that the government will protect the domestic market of tractors by introducing tough restrictions on import of similar production from abroad.

In his turn, Caterpillar's president Richard Thompson asked for support to two joint projects. They envisage establishing joint production of construction equipment and hydraulic excavators for the domestic market in collaboration with the Kirov plant (St. Petersburg). In addition to this, the Americans are prepared to invest in production of trucks and engines at ZIL. Thompson emphasised that the automobile plant's production potential can be fully used to manufacture competitive machines.

Soskovets supported both projects.

St. Petersburg Mayor Sobchak Interviewed

964F0221A Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY No 43, Oct 95 p 3

[Interview with Anatoliy Sobchak, mayor of St. Petersburg, by Natalya Zhelnorova; place and date not given: "Leaders Attract Garbage"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Zhelnorova] Anatoliy Aleksandrovich, you are always late. Not even party oblast committee secretaries or members of the Politburo permitted themselves this. And time, as we know, is money.

[Sobchak] Can the level and volume of the work that I have to do today be compared with the volume of work of a party oblast committee secretary? They would issue instructions, and these would activate the entire system, up to and including the housing offices and each enterprise. I have no such organization.

[Zhelnorova] Moscow politicians call you a "poseur": You are fond of friendship with people of high society and dignitaries, and it is said that you take advantage of your innate artistry merely to represent yourself well.

[Sobchak] I do, indeed, like to mix with gifted, outstanding people and meet frequently with famous actors, singers, writers. I become intellectually enriched with them. But, understand, these are not people on whom someone may be imposed. They themselves can choose with whom to socialize.

[Zhelnorova] It is rumored that you and Ananov own a jewelry store in New York.

[Sobchak] It is very easy to check. You need to inquire at the appropriate municipality. Let me be checked out in all countries of the world. I have no real estate abroad. I own an apartment in Russia. And my wife has been building a summer cottage for four years now. Neither I nor my wife participate in any stock company. We have no need to.

[Zhelnorova] Has the country, in fact, not matured to the point of having a university professor as president, as you once put it?

[Sobchak] All leaders proudly say that they "did not complete university." But I hope that in the year 2000 Russia will be headed by a person with a university education.

[Zhelnorova] Perhaps this could be you?

[Sobchak] I do not rule it out. I am young enough. Why did many people vote for Yeltsin? For the added reason that he had held quite high office, and people put their trust in this: This means that he knows how to govern. Chernomyrdin is the same type of person. Yavlinskiy, Gaydar, myself—this is a different generation of politicians. I believe that our time has not yet come.

[Zhelnorova] Embarking on a new mayoral stint, what mistakes will you take into consideration?

[Sobchak] Personnel mistakes are the most difficult. They are the hardest to rectify.

[Zhelnorova] You inflicted losses on the democratic movement in leaving for your native Petersburg. What have you gained there?

[Sobchak] I saw sooner than others that the Supreme Soviet was finished. It held no interest for me. I further understood that it is incredibly difficult to effect palpable change in Russia. You have to be a Gaydar (I don't know what he had more of—courage or flippancy). I thought that I could do something in Leningrad and devised the "islets' theory." The number of new islets conquered is creating a new atmosphere in the city. The Goodwill Games helped me in this sense.

I had to give people a celebration and faith. When we beat the Americans at these games and won the majority of medals, Petersburgers ceased to consider themselves second-rate people. It became easier for me to resolve many problems. This is why I am trying to bring the Olympics to the city. This would be a huge moneyspinner, it would also be a colossal boost to the city's development.

[Zhelnorova] Anatoliy Aleksandrovich, why have we strayed so far from the shining ideals of democracy?

[Sobchak] I would not say that we have. A bad psychological position has been established here both in the press and among the majority of people moreover. We are laying the foundation on which Russia will in the next decade become one of the strongest and most prosperous states of the world.

[Zhelnorova] But this is your viewpoint—that of a figure of the authorities. Is it objective? The colossal mail from our readers cries out about life's burdens. May we not believe them?

[Sobchak] In these four years we have laid the foundation of a market economy. We had neither private property nor free enterprise nor legislation nor a financial and credit system nor a telecommunications system nor trade. Now it is merely a question of the state not greatly hampering this development.

[Zhelnorova] But no one here has troubled himself with explaining the meaning of the reforms and their sequence to the people, who have learned from generation to generation to "butt out." Now a person wants to start his own business, say, but nothing of the sort—either the mafia or taxes or high credit interest.

[Sobchak] Yes, there is a mafia. But there are millions of people who have found themselves and who are content with their life. In 1990, for example, approximately 1,000 left Petersburg to travel abroad. On business assignments, on travel passes, on invitation.... In 1995, some 600,000. Now the majority of inhabitants of my city spend their vacation outside of Russia, unfortunately, because it is cheaper, more advantageous, more convenient there.

I understand the people who are sick and handicapped. We need to display concern for them. But there are healthy people who can but are unwilling to work. So make an effort! Go, do some work!

[Zhelnorova] Why, instead of conducting reforms, have the democrats rushed to buy up their own enterprises and have their children taught abroad? They have become worse than the communists....

[Sobchak] The people whom I consider democrats have not done this. It is for this reason that the majority of them today are not in power. Of all the members of the Interregional Group, two persons remain in power. Yeltsin and myself.

Life has "leached" from the bureaucracy the majority of "pure" democrats, who entered political life on the wave of the struggle against the communist system, having to their name neither experience nor knowledge nor an ability to work. They all vanished into thin air, into words.

In order to get some business moving I am forced each day in my own city to make a hundred compromises to overcome either unconcealed struggle or hidden resistance. Three million functionaries of the Communist Party—they are among us. And the majority of them have remained in the bureaucracy, these are professionally trained people.

There used to be much talk to the effect that the mayor should be chief of the supply section. I said at that time: "No. The job of the mayor, like that of the president of the country, is to look to the future and correctly determine movement and prospects. His deputies, assistants, and personnel should operationally tackle tasks that arise and overcome difficulties."

[Zhelnorova] What prospect do you, as a strategist, see in our country's development? Does the military have a chance of winning?

[Sobchak] The military simply does not have the brains for leadership of Russia. Were a general to come to power, he, unable to come to terms professionally with the majority of problems, would rely on the opinion of other people. Leaders always attract garbage. This is well known.

Ninety percent of all organizing is not done by military personnel themselves. It is sufficient to issue an order, and there, in accordance with regulations, things get done. In civilian life, however, orders are given, but there is no action because here there are no sergeant majors and sergeants who say "Yes, sir!" and go to carry it out. Here they tell you: "Yes, sir!" and do nothing.

[Zhelnorova] Is the communists' accession to power possible?

[Sobchak] I do not believe so. Although the communists' positions are strong in the heartland. The heartland has gotten less and is for this reason more discontented with the current state of affairs. The large cities have really experienced the fruit of the changes: There are no problems with food, merchandise, jobs. And people appreciate this. But the heartland is living in another country, as it were. The old communist leadership has done nothing to implement the reforms here. Why are things better in Russia than in Ukraine and Georgia? Because we have carried out reforms. And there they are having the difficulties that we negotiated in 1991-1992.

When there is a cleanup, chaos reigns and there are many inconveniences and problems. People would prefer to live even in an old house, where there are walls and order.

[Zhelnorova] True, this is the dream of many citizens of Russia. But we move farther and farther away from it by the day. Whence the hatred of the authorities and the desire to give the helm to everyone who promises to "restore order" and prevent crime.

[Sobchak] Why have we been unable to cope with crime? We still do not have a criminal code, which would enable us to fight crime. We are setting free racketeers and have armed the gangsters. All candidates for the Duma promised the electorate that they would fight crime. The electorate did not think at that time that what was of concern to Zhirinovskiy was not the fight against crime but the seizure of power. Nor are the communists concerned with the fight against crime but with the return of power. And they will do nothing in the Duma to successfully combat crime. It turned out that the electorate, which voted for them, was, in fact, voting against its own interests.

[Zhelnorova] Heavens, everything has been dumped on the poor electorate—according to the more-fool-you principle. So there is no multiparty system, in your opinion—everything is geared towards Yeltsin!

[Sobchak] The absence of new laws, which our parliament is failing to adopt owing to the motley character of its political composition, is impeding forward progress. A draft new law on tax legislation was submitted long since. But the Duma is not adopting it! Petersburg today has the lowest taxes. We have not availed ourselves of the right of the regions themselves to raise taxes. The profits tax here is 8 percent lower than in Moscow. But we are, as a result, taking in more.

Super-high taxes are causing business to go onto the black market. Whence the racketeering.... As soon as a person begins to conceal his taxes, the racketeer goes to him and says: "You are defrauding the state, now pay me off." Were he working honestly, he would pay all his taxes and would be afraid of no one.

[Zhelnorova] Have your ideas concerning the people changed as of late?

[Sobchak] No. It is simply that I have come to know them better.

[Zhelnorova] What of importance have you discovered for yourself?

[Sobchak] Both kindness and an ability to help.... But I have discovered much also that makes me sick at heart. Whenever people have applied to me and their requests were justified, I have always tried to satisfy them. Apartments, operations, loans.... In all these years only two persons have said "thank you" to me. Receiving an apartment authorization, veterans of the Patriotic War would say: "Thanks for having given us these apartments, we are entitled to them in any case. But who will move us. Why should I move from a communal apartment and pay money? Who will install a telephone for me?" I would say: "If you are a single person, we are prepared to meet you half-way. But we provided the apartment out of turn not so much for you as for your children and grandchildren who live with you. What have they done to receive it?" This is dependency. It was not explained for decades where anything came from.

[Zhelnorova] Why did your wife decide to run for the Duma? If she wins the elections, it will be said that you helped her. If she does not, it will be said that even her husband could not help her....

[Sobchak] Some things will be said in any event. She is running for the State Duma on the Russia Is Our Home slate not as Sobchak's wife but as a public figure, which she is. She is head of the Mariinskiy Foundation and is a member of the executive and trustee boards of many other foundations. All these social programs go through her, as a rule.

[Zhelnorova] This cannot be done outside of the Duma?

[Sobchak] Yes, it can. But she is a professional, a specialist in Russian history and parliamentarianism. And as a person to whom the fate of the country is not a matter of indifference, she could in the Duma help draft sensible laws. This is her choice.

Media Issues

Poegli Makes 'Clumsy' Attempt To Deny Grachev Libel

MM3110103495 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Oct 95 p 1

[Article by Oleg Getmanenko, under the headline "Notes From the Courtroom": "They Wrote — They Amused Themselves..."]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is possible that the capital's Krasnopresnenskiy Court will today complete proceedings in the case in which Vadim Poegli, deputy chief editor of MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS, is appearing as defendant. He is accused under Article 131, Part Two of the Russian Federation Criminal Code of deliberately insulting Army General Pavel Grachev, the Russian Federation defense minister, in the mass media. This concerns an article published in MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 20 October last year under the title: "Our Mercedes. The Thief Should Be in Prison, Not Minister of Defense."

Everyone remembers the noisy campaign launched by MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in this connection, which gained momentum every time the judicial hearing was postponed. However, not a trace remained 25 October of the euphoria which had reigned in the camp of Poegli's supporters. On this day P. Grachev, despite the fact that he was due to pay an official visit to the United States a few hours later, arrived in Krasnopresnenskiy Court, where he clarified his accusation and answered questions from Genri Reznik, the accused's defense attorney. After this, nothing prevented the judicial hearing from taking its normal course. But, somewhat to the surprise, and even the bewilderment, of MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS' representatives, it concentrated on the personality and actions of the defendant. The judge was also interested in the accused's understanding of the norms of journalistic ethics.

As a journalist who began his career with MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS as a court reporter, Poegli should have known of the liability stipulated for breaching the confidentiality of an investigation. However, it was actually material belonging to the preliminary investigation into an incident in a criminal action which was subsequently made into a separate case and then dropped for lack of evidence (the defense minister appeared in this case as a witness) which lay at the basis of the sensational article. Moreover, as was revealed in the course of the judicial hearing, neither Poegli, nor the other MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS staffers responsible for the publication of this edition of the newspaper, had sufficient grounds to consider that the photocopies of the interrogations conducted by the investigation and its working material that were delivered to the editorial offices by an unknown hand were genuine. Those present in the courtroom could not conceal a smile when the defendant claimed in his defense that the key words in the subtitle are in everyday use, that "they have entered into folklore and become a fact of our lives," since they were borrowed from...Sharapov, hero of the film "The Meeting Place Cannot Be Changed." No less clumsy were Poegli's attempts to convince the court that the "defense minister" mentioned in the subtitle of the sensational article in connection with the word "thief" was a totally abstract concept and should not be connected with the name of Pavel Grachev. And this, despite the fact that the entire article was created, as the saying goes, in the image of a specific person — the leader of Russia's military department. But anyway, the words and expressions which P. Grachev considered defamatory were, it turns out, a routine "literary device."

Whatever verdict the court delivers, it is already beyond doubt that the sensational article truly exploded with unusual power — however, not in the direction intended by the author and the people who gave him the go-ahead.

Daily Reprints Controversial Article on Grachev

LD3110101195 Moscow NTV in Russian 2100 GMT 30 Oct 95

[From the "Today at Midnight" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The editorial staff of the MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS newspaper have taken an unprecedented step: The latest issue reprints in full Vadim Poegli's article about the defense minister, the one that caused such a stir a year ago. This time, the entire staff have put their signatures to the definitive text of the article. Pavel Gusev, MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS chief editor, explains the reasons behind this.

[Begin Gusev recording] We suddenly felt that everybody was talking only about the headline and the subheads — but what is the article actually about? What is all the fuss about? Why did the court and many other people fail to perceive the meaning of the article? The article is signed by the MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS journalistic staff: This is because all the journalists are defending their point of view and the honor of the newspaper. We feel the article was incorrectly interpreted by Judge Govorova.

We also published an appeal, which we have sent to the Russian prosecutor general, the new prosecutor general, in which we ask that the closure of the criminal case in respect of [Pavel] Grachev over these Mercedes cars should be reviewed. [end recording]

Military & Nuclear Issues

Daily Views Senate Rejection of Black Sea Fleet Law

MM3110105895 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Oct 95 p 3

[Report by Petr Karapetyan: "Federation Council Rejects Law on Suspending Unilateral Cuts to the Black Sea Fleet as Contradicting Russia's International Obligations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Federation Council had already rejected in May this year the law "On a Moratorium on Unilateral Cuts to the Black Sea Fleet" passed on to it by the State Duma. Let us recall that this law spoke of the need to bring into force treaties between Russia and Ukraine on suspending unilateral reductions in the strength of Black Sea Fleet subunits — including coastal troops and aviation — changing their organizational and staff structure, and withdrawing them from their bases. On that occasion the law was rejected by senators as contradicting Russia's international obligations.

The law resubmitted to the upper house by the State Duma — true, with an amended title, "On Suspending Unilateral Cuts to the Black Sea Fleet and Ensuring Its Maintenance" — had not undergone substantial amendment. Unless, of course, you count the new name and two articles of secondary importance. Nor did the senators change their position, rejecting it on this occasion also. The conclusion of two Federation Council committees — for security questions and defense and for CIS affairs — says that "Russia is committed to ensure the strict and complete fulfillment of its obligations under bilateral international treaties and agreements and has the right to require this from Ukraine."

True, the senators did not say a word on how to obtain this from a country which experiences no special discomfort over failing to fulfill the aforesaid obligations.

Indeed, what is the use of talking about political obligations when even funds transferred by Moscow to maintain the fleet do not get through. Some of the money, and a considerable amount at that, is sitting in a Ukrainian bank in the form of all manner of lease payments. It would not be superfluous — but it would evidently be a waste of time — to remind Kiev that the fulfillment of bilateral treaties is not a one-way street. Our politicians' irresolution only exacerbates the already unenviable position of the Black Sea Fleet seamen. The latest confirmation of this is the fact that all the fleet's facilities have had mains supplies of energy cut off in view of their large debts. The forced switch to independent sources of fuel (they were provided for use in wartime, and indeed, the situation which has now arisen is far worse than that) will cost the fleet several times more.

Tarasevich Wants Chemical Weapons Near Penza Destroyed

LD3010220495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1652 GMT 30 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Revokat Kozmin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Penza, 30 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — "It is necessary to render harmless the arsenal of toxic combat substances stored during the cold war near Penza because they are a delayed-action mine," Lieutenant-General Yuriy Tarasevich, deputy commander of the radiation, chemical, and biological protection troops, who arrived in Penza with a group of experts and scientists to familiarize himself on the spot with the conditions in which the chemical weapons due to be destroyed are stored, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent in an interview today.

"Together with the regional leadership, local scientists, and people, we must also discuss the possibility that a plant to destroy these lethal stockpiles can be built on the territory of Penza Region," the general continued.

"An effective and ecologically safe technological process to destroy the contents of similar warheads has been set up and practically introduced in Russia. For instance, this technological process yielded good results in Shikhany in Saratov Region, where Russian experts rendered warheads with toxic substances harmless in the presence of international observers."

Conference Discusses Coverage of Army's Problems

MM3010114095 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Oct 95 p 1

["Own information" report: "'Russian Weapons' Finds Out Its Value"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We did not even expect such a concerted reaction on the part of the defense industry workers. The concert hall of the Central House of the Journalist, where an oral issue of Saturday's supplements to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA — "Russian Weapons" and "Russian Aviation" — took place, was chock-full, so to speak. Before the beginning of the event you could not help remembering the old folk parable where the soldier dies in combat because "his chain mail turned out to be too short. But the "chain mail is too short" formula has depressingly enough become a popular expression again now, hundreds and hundreds of years later.

This indeed was the subject of a serious and quite thorough discussion. The speakers — Viktor Glukhikh, chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry; Sergey Glazyev, chairman of a State Duma committee; Anatoliy Dolgolaptev, deputy chairman of the Federation Council; Petr Romanov, hero of socialist labor and Federation Council deputy; Mikhail Simonov and Aleksandr Dondukov, general aircraft designers; Stanislav Chernov, president of the "SMM" joint-stock company; Academician Yevgeniy Fedosov, director of the State Aircraft Design Scientific Research Institute[GosNIIAS]; Hero of Russia Roman Taskayev, chief pilot at the "MIG" Moscow Aviation Production Association; Cosmonaut Vladimir Titov, and invited journalists — spoke of the need to cover the problems of the military-industrial complex regularly and on a systematic basis. However, that is the subject for a separate discussion. We will continue it in one of the next editions of "Russian Weapons" and "Russian Aviation."

Russia's Choice Spokesman on Increase in Military Spending

LD2910214795 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 2100 GMT 29 Oct 95

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The press were not the only ones to attend the Press '96 exhibition being held in Moscow — the leaders of Russia's Democratic Choice were there to mix with them.

They talked about many things. Yegor Gaydar for one explained what was bad about Marxism and socialism and compared both the one and the other to performance-enhancing drugs or drugs pure and simple which lift the economy for a while, then ruin it. The student military call-up situation and the addition of 200,000 men to the army were cited as examples of the how the economy is being ruined.

[Begin recording] [Sergey Yushenkov, chairman of State Duma Defense Committee and member of Russia's Democratic Choice] Two hundred thousand men cost the federal budget roughly 2.7 trillion rubles and that's more than total expenditure on art and culture, more than the total allocated from the federal budget to secondary and specialized education. [end recording]

Cadre Officers To Notify Command Before Leaving Units

LD3110003295 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0000 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cadre officers in many regions of Russia have been recommended not to leave military units without notifying their command, the NTV television company reported tonight. It's not known yet what has caused this stepped up combat readiness.

Financial, Other Problems of Northern Fleet Detailed

LD2810184895

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1025 GMT on 28 October carries a 35-minute edition of the "Compatriots" program hosted by Tatyana Furman and featuring interviews of various Northern Fleet officers and sailors. The program is devoted to problems of the Northern Fleet.

Furman begins by describing Severomorsk as a sailors' town and the base of the Russian Northern Fleet. She adds that it is a closed town for most Russian citizens and its shortage of money makes it ripe for reform. [video shows Severomorsk, street scenes, sailors, warships, and dockside cranes]

The program then features an interview of an officer, who says that the educational standard of new naval recruits is dropping. [video shows officer, recruits in training aboard the warship Admiral Kharlamov, and warships at sea]

Furman goes on to discuss the cruiser Admiral Kuznetsov, the only aircraft-carrying ship of its class in the Russian Navy. She states it is the most powerful ship in the Russian Navy and can carry the Su-27K aircraft. She adds that it is presently undergoing an overhaul, which is being hampered by a shortage of funds. Captain 1st Class Aleksandr Chelpanov, the ship's commander, then explains that the sailors are repainting the ship themselves, but he is hopeful that spare parts can be found and that the enthusiasm of the crew and the few civilian workmen working on the overhaul will help the ship get back to sea on schedule. [video shows Admiral Kuznetsov, interview with Chelpanov, and interviews with workers]

Furman then states that last year one in five of the fleet's ships were overhauled, while this year only one in ten has been. She adds that some ships are being sold off to raise money, including the cruiser Admiral Gorshkov, although it is still seaworthy. [video shows Admiral Gorshkov at its berth]

Turning to Chechnya, Furman notes that many of the Northern Fleet's marines have died in combat in Chechnya. In interviews with marines, they complain of the lack of money. Lieutenant Colonel Sergey Zhukov, commander of a marine battalion, expresses gratitude to a local sponsor, the director of the Pechenga Nickel Combine, for providing a payment of 10 million rubles to the families of every marine officer who lost his life in the fighting. [video shows marines in training, pictures of dead bodies in Chechnya, interviews of junior officer and Zhukov, and marines marching on parade ground]

Furman then reports on Boris Nemtsov, governor of Nizhniy Novgorod region, who attended the christening ceremony of the submarine Nizhniy Novgorod, on which recruits from the town will serve. [video shows submarine, interview with atomic submarine commander Igor Voronkov, Nemtsov at festivities, and interview with Nemtsov]

Furman goes on to discuss the effect of lack of funds on the Arctic group of border troops. [video shows dilapidated buildings on shore, border troops ashore and at sea, small vessels at a border troops base, and interview with commander of a marine border brigade]

An interview with Admiral Oleg Yerofeyev, commander of the Northern Fleet, during naval exercises at sea is then shown. Yerofeyev says that all the fuel for the fleet's exercise has been provided by a kind sponsor, whom he did not name.

Furman concludes the program by declaring that during these exercises, the Navy detected the presence in the area of a U.S. submarine and a U.S. Orion maritime reconnaissance aircraft. She adds that neither responded to requests for identification but both hampered the exercise. [video shows naval guns being fired at sea during training; interview with Yerofeyev on the bridge of the cruiser Admiral Nakhimov, onboard ship operations, an Orion aircraft flying overhead, and a warship firing a missile]

Nuclear Submarine Reactors To Supply Power to North

LD3010224395 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2200 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Atomic reactors for submarines will provide heating and electricity for remote towns of the Russian north, Russian Atomic Energy Minister Viktor Mikhaylov said in an exclusive interview to BIZNES-TASS. He said that a design of an atomic thermal station based on reactors for small submarines has been developed. These stations on floating platforms are to be used in coastal towns of the Russian north. An installation of this type is currently being assembled. In two year's time such stations will be supplied to order. Two installations of this type, generating 100 MW each, can ensure a stable power supply for a town with a population of 30,000 people, including its entire industrial sector, the minister said.

Federal Assembly

Army Paper Welcomes Duma Adoption of Defense Law

MM3010143395 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Oct 95 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Yermolin: "New Times — a New View of Defense. As Already Reported, the State Duma Wednesday Adopted the Russian Federation Law 'On Defense' in Its Third Reading"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Its further fate will be decided by the Federation Council and the Russian Federation president.

The new law differs from the old law in its greater correspondence with the Russian Federation Constitution and existing legislation. It determines the list of departments having the right to armed formations. A number of articles have been fundamentally revised. For example, not only the military duty of Russian citizens is established but also the duty to provide military transport on the part of the executive and local government organs of power and of organizations irrespective of their form of ownership and the means of transport of the owners.

The law provides for the involvement in defense (besides, naturally, the Armed Forces) of the Border Troops, the Internal Troops, the Railway Troops, FAPSI [Federal Government Communications and Information Agency] troops, and Civil Defense troops. The list of departments entitled to have their own military organization, weapons, and military equipment and which provide for the performance of military service does not include a whole series of ministries which now enjoy the services of an unpaid "labor force" in shoulderboards. For example, the MChS [Ministry for Affairs of Civil Defense, Emergency Situations, and Elimination of Natural Disasters]. For the remaining "other troops and military formations" the law contains a list of clear-cut and straightforward obligations with regard to defense and, therefore, to the Armed Forces. These troops will be recruited according to the principles and procedures established for the Russian Federation Armed Forces.

Article 10 says that "the Russian Federation president can use the Russian Federation Armed Forces to perform tasks that fall outside their remit in accordance with federal laws."

The law still remains to be brought into force (or not) — this depends on the Federation Council and the Russian Federation president. One of the drafters and initiators of the law, Aleksandr Piskunov, deputy chairman of the parliamentary defense committee, does not expect the law to have an easy passage or to be quickly ratified by presidential edict. Debates are, apparently, inevitable. The most important thing is to ensure that petty departmental interests do not prevail in making improvements to the law. Such a thing has already happened in our legislative practice, and more than once at that.

Duma Lawmakers Defend Rights of Entrepreneur

LD3110113995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1052 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KRASNODAR, October 31 (ITAR-TASS) — Lawmakers of the State Duma Gleb Jakunin, Lev Ponomaryev, Georgiy Zadonskiy and Vladimir Gritsan have filed a lawsuit against Chief of the Krasnodar Department of the Federal Security Service (FSS) Yevgeniy Vorontsov, regional prosecutor Anatoliy Shkrebets, the newspaper "Kubanskiye Novosti" and "Kubanj" teleradio company in order to defend the rights of an entrepreneur from Krasnodar, Sergey Ushakov.

The lawmakers believe that Ushakov was illegally arrested and they appealed to the Russian president, asking to defend the rights and honor of the entrepreneur and his family.

Ushakov, who legally owned a currency exchange office, was attacked on July 22, 1994, and a large sum of money in U.S. dollars was stolen from his office. Ushakov was taken into custody while an investigation into his case continued. He remained in custody for three months. After he was released, he took measures to bring those responsible to justice.

However, on April 3, 1995 Ushakov was taken into custody again after a grenade had been found in his car. The entrepreneur declared that the grenade did not belong to him, but had been deliberately placed in his car to provoke his arrest.

The lawmakers interfered in a bid to defend Ushakov's rights after they had been informed about the case in detail. However, the lawmakers's statements on this case were denied on radio and television by the Krasnodar Prosecutor and the Chief of the Krasnodar FSS department, which was the reason why the Duma lawmakers filed a lawsuit.

Court hearings on this case scheduled for October 30 have been postponed until November 20, 1995, since two defendants, including the prosecutor and a representative of the "Kubanj" telecompany had failed to turn up for an inquest.

Regional Affairs

Chechnya Reportage: Military, Negotiations, Economy

Shkirko Notes Positive Role of Army

LD3010230095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1951 GMT 30 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Zagnoyko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy, 30 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — In the main drive of the staff of the combined group of federal forces in Chechnya, who are, like the whole of the adjoining area, making ready on the threshold of winter, an impressive hoarding has appeared, showing a portrait of General Yermolov. Beside it are the words "In the Caucasus, we have served and will continue to serve for the benefit of Russia."

We are prompted to recall the time-honored traditions of service to the Fatherland by the situation and by the specific assignments that the armed forces in Chechnya have been set by the government and the president, an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told by Lt-Gen Anatoliy Shkirko, commander of the combined group of federal forces in Chechnya.

"The army is a vital attribute of statehood, the guarantor of its security. By restoring constitutional order in the republic, we are serving, like many generations of Russian soldiers, for the benefit of Russia and for the benefit of Chechnya itself, the territory of which is an inseparable part of our great country," he observed.

"As for military valor, honor and glory, I would say the following: Despite the fact that we are obliged to use force inside our own country, the parallel with the feats of our fathers is apt here too," the commander stressed. "A monument should be raised to many young men who are today at their positions in Chechnya during their lifetime."

We have not managed to keep all of them safe. Not all have returned alive from the battle, the general continued. But all wars on Earth end around the negotiating table. The present armed conflict in Chechnya will also end in peace. The Russian Army is striving for precisely that outcome. And that is also one of the integral parts of our service in the Caucasus.

Talks Resuming With Dudayev Examined

LD3010173495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1407 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Oct 30 (INTERFAX) — Head of the pro-Dudayev delegation to the peace talks in Groznyy Khozh-Akhmed Yarikhanov told INTERFAX Monday that he did not exclude the possibility of resuming unofficial working talks with Russian negotiators this week.

Yarikhanov said he was ready to meet Russian negotiators any time to discuss "the problems piling up."

The main problem is "guarantees of security and complete end to hostilities," he added. Both sides should assume mutual obligations to guarantee that military operations will not resume, Yarikhanov suggested.

The best solution to the guarantee issue would be to deploy international observers and U.N. peacekeepers in the conflict area, he said.

Yarikhanov reiterated Chechen rebels' position, regarding this demand as the essential condition to resume the peace talks and the Special Observer Commission, suspended in early August.

Zorin Details Economic Revitalization

LD2810000395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1542 GMT 27 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 27 Oct (ITAR-TASS) — Despite the complex situation in Chechnya, the federal forces do not intend to lower the working pace for restoring the republic's vital activity and economy. This was said today at a press conference by Vladimir Zorin, first deputy head of the Territorial Directorate of the Federal Bodies of the Executive Power in Chechnya.

According to information from the Territorial Directorate, 5.4 trillion rubles have been set aside for Chechnya's restoration and out of this, 2.72 trillion rubles have been used. Fifty-nine schools are functioning and 1,170 kms of high-voltage power lines have been restored.

This guarantees electricity for 13 of the republic's 15 districts. Forty-five of the 155 oil wells are in action and the daily extraction of oil amounts to 4,500 tonnes.

Trains are working in the republic, 105 bus routes extending over 4,089 kms have been organized, and scheduled flights from Groznyy to Moscow and Rostov-on-Don have begun.

According to the Russian Federal Migration Service, 158.4 billion rubles have been spent on refugees. The Ministry for Social Protection has paid children of the republic benefits to the sum of 33.6 billion rubles. Pensions for 1995 have been paid to 79,000 pensioners and clearing arrears have begun. About 93 billion rubles have been spent on this.

'Minimal' Hope for Normality Seen

MM3010132895 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Oct 95 p 5

[Article by Igor Rotar: "Chechnya: Long-Standing Sedition. Events in Republic Will Develop on Algerian Lines"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted]

Attempted Peacekeeping

Talks in Groznyy have been under way with virtually no success for five months now. It looks as though talks are one thing but war is something else. It is indicative that the local elections scheduled initially for November have been postponed, according to Arkadiy Volskiy, for roughly another six months. In the opinion of this politician, it is now also unrealistic to hold elections to territorial organs of authority: "In the current conditions this will simply lead to shoot-outs at the polling places!"

The now customary audacious acts of terrorism and incessant bombing of the civilian population provide convincing evidence of the influence exerted by those in favor of prosecuting the war to a victorious conclusion. "I severely doubt that the Kremlin sincerely wants peace!" Ruslan Khasbulatov told IZVESTIYA. The most interesting thing is that Arkadiy Volskiy also indirectly agrees with that idea. "I am sure that there is no sincere desire to find those responsible for the acts of terrorism that are causing the talks to break down. Thus, after the murder of the Chapanov family in a Groznyy suburb, Boris Yeltsin said that he would personally take charge of this matter. Well, a few months have already elapsed and there are still no results. Ultimately, do we have a president or not?" Arkadiy Volskiy exclaimed angrily.

But even if you imagine the incredible — namely, the Moscow "war party" giving up — the situation will hardly change dramatically.

In effect, authority on the Dudayev side has long since passed to individual field commanders, each of whom only nominally comes under the jurisdiction of the rebel Chechen president.

Moscow's position at the talks with the Dudayevites is unequivocal: "Chechnya must remain within the Russian Federation." Even if (which is, moreover, unlikely) members of Dudayev's delegation agree to that, this decision will be viewed as betrayal by many influential field commanders. In the event of a split in the Dudayev camp, the war in Chechnya will become even more chaotic and unpredictable: Small, uncontrolled detachments of guerrillas are far more dangerous for Moscow than resistance forces under (albeit nominal) unified command.

Split Society

Most of Dzhokhar Dudayev's supporters come from the southern mountainous areas of Chechnya. According to Vakhid Akayev, the well-known Chechen philosopher and political scientist, it was by no means an accident that Dudayev gave the republic the official title of Chechnya-Ichkeria. Ichkeria comprises the two mountain rayons in southern Chechnya (Shatoyskiy and Vedenskiy Rayons). By including Ichkeria in the title of the whole state, Akayev believes that Dudayev enshrined mountain inhabitants' supremacy over the plainsmen.

That is one reason why, after Dudayev's coming to power, most inhabitants of Chechnya's northern and central rayons did not back the first Chechen president.

The introduction of Russian troops into Chechnya sealed the split in local society once and for all. Residents of whole regions were classed as traitors. If you consider that Chechnya religiously observes the blood-feud tradition, it becomes understandable that there will be no peace in Chechnya even if a miracle occurs, that is, Moscow decided to withdraw its troops.

With the help of reshuffles within the Chechen leadership, the center is trying to find the kind of people capable of reconciling the various groups in Chechen society. That is not bearing fruit.

New "Yermolov" Tactics

Should it so desire, the Kremlin can smash Chechen guerrillas' organized resistance within a fairly brief space of time (six months at most) and establish — formally at least — control over the whole republic. Today, over 150 years on, the Russian troops are using the same tactics as the czarist General Yermolov: The Chechen resistance forces are being forced into inhospitable mountain areas and then besieged there while opposition villages are destroyed. Isolated and deprived of "supplies" of ammunition and food the rebel detachments lose their combat capability fairly rapidly. The methods of the "gendarme of the Caucasus" worked very well, and had Nicholas I not suddenly recalled Yermolov, the war in Chechnya would not have gone on so long.

In current conditions whereby, thanks to the air force, no areas are effectively out of reach of the Russian troops the czarist general's tactics are "working" even more effectively.

Admittedly, during the talks Moscow has lost the military initiative and the Dudayevites have succeeded in establishing themselves virtually throughout Chechnya's southern foothills. But if necessary the Russian troops can once again get really close to the mountain rayons without great difficulty.

Guerrilla Warfare Among the Ruins

What does the Kremlin really stand to gain from a military victory? The victors will inherit devastated cities and villages and an embittered population that loathes the "occupiers."

The Chechens have a phenomenal memory. Virtually every one of them knows the history of the village of Daddy-Yurt burned by czarist troops along with its inhabitants and the village of Khaybakh destroyed in the same way in 1944. This war had added another name to this sorry list — Samashki.

But whereas traces of the wars of the 19th century disappeared relatively rapidly, the ruins of Groznyy, a city which has been virtually wiped off the face of the earth, will remind the Chechens for many years to come of the methods the Kremlin is using to defend the Federation's territorial integrity.

You can see how events will develop in the "liberated" area from the example of Groznyy — a city which the federal troops have controlled for over six months. Life here can only be called peaceful in very theoretical terms.

With nightfall the city dies — it is the time of the "abreks." That is what people here call the small groups of terrorists subordinate to no one that deal with the "federal troops" as they see fit. It is to all intents and purposes impossible to combat this phenomenon. In fact, whereas a Dudayevite detachment can be crushed in the mountains and caught by using aircraft, any adolescent who can bring himself to shoot a Russian soldier can become an abrek. If you consider that in Dudayev's time Chechnya legalized the sale of weapons and every Chechen family had a few guns, it becomes understandable that disarming the Chechen population in the near future is unfeasible.

Naturally, it will be even harder for the federal authorities to deal with professional saboteurs — people like Shamil Basayev — than with the "abreks." The Dudayev camp contains quite a few such aces. The Budennovsk operation, for instance, was not planned by Basayev. The former commander of an Abkhazian battalion learned of the impending terrorist act just the day before. Although the terrorists were called "Basayevites," in fact Basayev's personal bodyguard was the only member of the sabotage squad who had anything to do with him.

The situation in Chechnya will most likely develop on Algerian lines: The government is on the whole in control of the situation but it cannot cope with countless small terrorist groups.

A specific feature of the situation in Chechnya will be the fact that the huge number of weapons in the hands of the population and the existence of a host of groups of well-trained professional saboteurs will bring about guerrilla warfare on a wider scale than in the Muslim state in North Africa.

Another fact of no small importance is that excellent conditions for terrorists have been prepared in Chechnya — countless ruins in unlit city streets, a favorable spawning ground in the shape of people ruined by war and left without the means of existence.

According to Arkadiy Volskiy, the republic has suffered losses of 13 trillion rubles (about $3 billion). Today around 53 percent of the able-bodied population of Groznyy are unemployed. In all, only 100,000 of the 450,000 jobs that existed in Chechnya in the eighties are left now (under Dudayev there were 300,000 jobs in the republic). Moreover, even the fortunate few who have managed to find work receive their wages on an extremely irregular basis. Wages are not being paid at all at many enterprises.

As a result of the bombing raids, a huge number of people have been left without housing. Doku Zavgayev, who was recently elected prime minister of the Chechen Republic Government, claims that 70 percent of Groznyy's multistory housing stock has been destroyed and 27,000 people have officially asked the territorial administration for compensation for the destruction of their housing. However, that is by no means the full figure since only a negligible proportion of the population is hoping for aid from the authorities.

Hopes are minimal that, given the country's current budget, the traditional Russian disorder, and the thievery, it will be possible to organize normal life in Chechnya in the near future. At any rate during the Russian authorities' six months here the devastated housing stock has not even begun to be restored and there are frequent power and water outages.

Obviously, Chechnya will represent a "black hole" for the Russian budget for a long time to come: Money will be needed to restore the ravaged republic and maintain a powerful repressive apparatus. Local residents are doomed to live among the ruins and among Russian OMON [Special-Purpose Police Detachment] checkpoints and to go to sleep nights to the habitual sound of assault rifle fire.

Three Commanders-in-Chief Visit Volgograd

MM3010200895 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 28 Oct 95 p 1

[Unattributed report from news roundup: "Strange Gathering of Commanders-in-Chief on the Volga"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Three commanders-in-chief — of Railroad Troops, Ground Forces, and Strategic Missile Forces — have descended simultaneously on Volgograd Oblast. Local staffs try evasively to ascribe this to "planned checks on the results of the training year." But it has been learned from unofficial sources that the chief missileman attended missile launches at Kapyar and inspected a closed unit near Kamyshin. In the absence of corps commander Rokhlin, the commander in chief of the Ground Forces assessed the combat readiness of the 8th Corps, which was well known in Chechnya.

A somber conclusion suggests itself: The people of Volgograd Oblast are to expect a new posting "to the south."

North Ossetian, Ingush Governments Urge Friendship

LD3110124395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1051 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VLADIKAVKAZ, Oct 31 (INTERFAX) — The governments of North Ossetia and Ingushetia urged their peoples to promote friendship and cooperation. INTERFAX's correspondent reports that leaders of both republics said in their address, published on the anniversary of the start of the Osset-Ingush conflict, that they intend to prevent repetition of such developments, and they will do all they can to secure constitutional rights and freedoms for their people.

The armed conflict that erupted in Prigorodnyy District of North Ossetia on October 31, 1992, claimed several hundred lives from both sides within a week. According to the Federal Migration Service, 49,000 Ingushes were forced to leave North Ossetia and go to adjoining Ingushetia. According to Ingushetia's government, the number of Ingush refugees from North Ossetia surpassed 70,000. Virtually all of them are still unable to return to their homes.

The address was also signed by chairman of Russia's Interim Committee for coping with the consequences of the Osset-Ingush conflict Vladimir Lozovoy. It says most people have re-evaluated what happened and want to restore peace and neighborliness.

The address expresses confidence that obstacles to the return of refugees and serious difficulties in the process of reconstruction works are temporary, and will be overcome.

Kozyrev Arrives in Murmansk To Meet Electorate

LD3010161895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1556 GMT 30 Oct 95

[By Vladimir Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 30 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev arrived in Murmansk from Amman on Monday. In Amman, Kozyrev took part in the second international conference on the economic development of the Middle East and North Africa.

In Murmansk, the foreign minister will meet his electorate. He is campaigning in Murmansk as an independent candidate for the State Duma in one of the region's one-seat constituencies.

On Tuesday, Kozyrev will attend an international investment conference and an exhibition, "The Possibilities of Northern Regions-95."

Amur Administration Head Vetoes Khabarovsk Charter

LD3110095495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0757 GMT 31 Oct 95

[By Boris Saveliyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KHABAROVSK October 31 (ITAR-TASS) — The future of the Charter of the Khabarovsk Region, adopted by the regional Duma, remains bleak. Duma Chairman Viktor Ozerov, who answered questions of Amur residents in a local radio programme today, said that head of the territorial administration Viktor Ishayev had refused to sign the Charter and sent it back to the Duma with his notes.

It is hardly possible that the governor's veto will be overcome at the next session of the regional Duma. This can be done, if 17 Duma members out of 19 vote for the previous wording of the Charter. However, several Duma members are at the same time members of the regional and territorial administrations, which, perhaps, will be the key factor influencing their stand. Duma members may reject some of the notes of the head of the local administration. The most probable way is that the sides will not reach agreement, and the adoption of the document, which is of vital importance for the Khabarovsk Region, will be procrastinated.

The cooperation between the executive and representative branches of authority in the Amur Territory, which used to be constructive until recently, is showing signs of strain. Heads of the local administration of the Amur Territory and Duma leaders now start open polemics from time to time.

Economic Issues

Commission Reaches Compromise on 1996 Budget

LD3010163895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1551 GMT 30 Oct 95

[By Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, October 30 (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian Finance Ministry will recalculate the main parametres of the 1996 budget based on an average monthly rate of inflation of 1.9 per cent.

A decision to this effect was adopted on Monday by a reconciliation commission which comprises representatives of both houses of the parliament and the government.

The commission was set up to work out a compromise draft budget for 1996 acceptable to both the parliament and the government after the lawmakers turned down on October 18 the first reading of the initial draft budget which put inflation at 1.2 per cent.

Commission members also agreed that together with the draft budget the parliament will adopt a law containing a list of enterprises whose stocks will be auctioned next year. The sale of packages of shares may be postponed if there is little or no demand for them.

Gaydar Attacks Background Inflation Arguments

LD3010175795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1607 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Oct 30 (INTERFAX) — Background inflation supporters failed to present substantial arguments in favor of their own theory, under which the growth of prices in Russia will be rather fast for many years to come, the leader of the election bloc Democratic Choice of Russia-United Democrats, Yegor Gaydar, told INTERFAX in an exclusive interview Monday. He was commenting on the results of last weekend's research conference on ways to develop Russia's economy in 1995 to 1997.

Gaydar said the debates convincingly established a dependency between the inflation rate and the money supply. "In turn, recognition of this dependency shows the need to pursue a monetary policy excluding the Central Bank's inflationary crediting the budget," he added.

Thereby, the economic forum rejected the arguments by some Russian deputies insisting on raising the budget-envisioned 1996 inflation rate from government-proposed 14.4 percent to 24 to 60 percent.

The budget conciliatory commission had voted Monday in favor of the government's motion to submit modified budget proposals to the Federal Assembly. The new version will envision a monthly inflation rate of 1.9 percent rather than 1.2 percent as before.

New 5,000-Ruble Banknotes In Circulation 31 Oct

LD3010144095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1410 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW October 30 (ITAR-TASS) — Russia is circulating its new 5,000-rouble banknotes on Tuesday, according to a Central Bank report, thus continuing to replace major bills.

Earlier 100,000-rouble banknotes appeared for the first time in the country and new 50,000 and 10,000-rouble bills then began to replace the old ones. 1,000-rouble bills are yet to appear.

The replacement will last until the old banknotes cease to circulate completely.

Changes in U.S. $100 Bill Outlined

964E0147A Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Oct 95 p 3

[Unattributed article: "Old Dollar, New Dollar — Find Six Differences"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As already reported, specimens of new U.S. bank notes the American Treasury intends to place in circulation the beginning of next year have arrived in Moscow. The substitution will be effected gradually, beginning with the $100 bill, and will proceed at the "speed" of one denomination per year. For a certain period of time, the new money will be in circulation along with the old. American authorities are therefore making widespread notification to citizens regarding particular features of the new bills and how they differ from those presently in use. The Treasury is pointing out six main differences:

1. The serial number of the bill contains an additional letter.

2. The note shows the new seal of the Federal Reserve System.

3. A polymer thread runs vertically across the bank note and acquires a red coloring in ultraviolet light.

4. Franklin's portrait is offset more markedly to the left than on the present bill and is printed using a technology that impedes copying.

5. An additional portrait of Franklin appears in the form of a watermark.

6. The figure 100, denoting the value of the bill, is printed with a special dye that changes color, to green or black, depending upon the angle of view of the bill.

If and when the new $100 bill falls into your hands, pay attention to these particular features. No matter how great the degree of protection from counterfeiting, it is always best to make the extra effort towards assurance that you have not been passed a counterfeit.

International Affairs

Defense Officials Deny Possible NATO Deployment in Dniester

WS3010133995 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 25 Oct 95 pp 1,7

[Unattributed report: "Will There Be NATO Troops in the Dniester Region?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian media have recently been forming an opinion that the 14th Army must not be withdrawn from the Dniester region, because NATO troops will take its place. What will the suspension of this process [the withdrawal of the 14th Army from the Dniester] mean for Ukraine? After all, we have a common border with Moldova.

Anatoliy Smetanin, KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI military columnist, has asked Valeriy Shmarov, Ukrainian defense minister, Vadym Hrechaninov, military adviser to the Ukrainian president, and Oleksandr Skipalskyy, member of the Parliamentary Commission for Defense and National Security, to answer these questions.

Valeriy Shmarov:

I do not think NATO troops will be stationed in the Dniestr. Luckily for us, NATO is run by wise political and military leaders. They understand what they do, and by all means avoid any direct contact with CIS structures or territory, so to speak. This (NATO's possible arrival in the Dniestr region — Anatoliy Smetanin) may prove to be such a negative possibility [of direct contact with the CIS]. Thus, I rule this option out.

There are other forces opposing this withdrawal. The situation in this region is very complicated. My personal opinion is that the unrecognized Dniestr Republic wants to keep the 14th Army. Contradictions between Moldova and the Dniestr region also affect this process.

Ukraine is ready to let the 14th Army's trains pass through its territory, provided all concluded agreements and security measures are observed. We gave our go-ahead for this.

I think it is better to withdraw the army. However, one should keep in mind that it is far from being an army. These forces are much more modest than an army. Nevertheless...

Vadym Hrechaninov:

The Russians actually do not want to withdraw the Army from this region, because this is area involves Russia's interests. As for the deployment of NATO forces in this region, it is simply absurd. The point is that peacekeeping forces operate under the auspices of the United Nations, and it is decided at the highest level whether such forces should be deployed in a new region. Moreover, Russia, Moldova, Ukraine, and the Dniestr have interests in this area. Therefore, I believe that these statements are groundless.

The main thing for us is to preserve peace in this region, and the situation in this region depends on the wisdom and skills of Moldovan and Dniestr leaders.

Oleksandr Skipalskyy:

Regarding the issue of NATO troops capturing this territory, such gross disinformation did not exist even in the past (when I still worked in the KGB). There is no doubt that this is completely untrue. NATO speaks only about countries that want to join it themselves. As far as I know, the unrecognized Dniestr Republic does not want to join NATO; therefore, the suggested deployment of NATO troops on its territory is complete nonsense.

If Russian troops remain there, than one should see on what conditions: If they remain there on lease conditions with the consent of Moldova and the Dniestr Republic, this will be their internal affair. If the troops remain there without consent of the two Republic's leadership, we may have another hot spot.

Funding Threatens To Delay Nuclear Weapons Elimination

LD3010185295 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Ukraine is fully abiding by its obligations to eliminate nuclear weapons, but the time could come when "we will be forced to halt this process, taking into account that not only do technical problems have to be resolved, but simultaneously so does a set of issues linked to them, said Colonel Oleksandr Serdyuk, head of the administrative control center of the strategic nuclear forces troops of Ukraine's Defense Ministry."

According to him, if financial assistance is not received, then it is not ruled out that the process of eliminating nuclear weapons will be delayed. Oleksandr Serdyuk recalled that when the Ukrainian parliament ratified the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), the leaders of 13 countries, in particular the United States, Germany, Great Britain, France, Canada, Norway, and Italy adopted a joint statement with an assurance they will render financial assistance to Ukraine for the social welfare of servicemen and protection of the environment.

According to Oleksandr Serdyuk, only the United States is carrying out its promises, having given approximately

$100 million to Ukraine to date, while countries as Great Britain and France have been holding back their declared help.

Serdyuk said another $60 million are needed to build housing for strategic forces servicemen.

In accordance with the accords between the United States and Ukrainian military departments, as a result of bidding over the past nine months, the U.S. firm "Bechtel" will finance the work at missile complexes of strategic designation as a subcontractor. This firm has taken part in the construction of many of the world's nuclear and hydroelectric power stations, and also in constructing the Channel Tunnel.

Ministry Says Nuclear Warheads 90 Percent Dismantled

AU3010183795 Paris AFP in English
1800 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Oct 30 (AFP) — Ukraine has dismantled 90 percent of the warheads from its massive arsenal of strategic nuclear missiles it inherited from the Soviet Union, the Ukrainian defence ministry announced Monday [30 October].

"Ninety percent of the strategic nuclear missiles deployed on the territory of Ukraine are now without nuclear warheads," Colonel Alexander Serdiuk, head of strategic forces administration, said.

"In theory only 10 percent of them could be used," he added, while noting that operational control over the missiles was held by Russia, not Ukraine.

Kiev inherited 130 SS-19 and 46 SS-24 missiles when the Soviet Union broke up, making it the world's third largest nuclear power after the United States and Russia.

However, in a January 1994 accord with those two countries, it pledged to dismantle the arsenal and transfer the warheads to Russia in return for fuel for its nuclear power plants.

Serdiuk refused to say how many warheads had been sent back to Russia, but said the exchange was going "according to plan." The newer SS-24 missiles had been dismantled by October last year, he added.

But he said Kiev might slow down the process if it was not given more help from other countries to provide new jobs and accommodation for the troops now no longer needed due to disarmament.

"If we don't get enough aid, it's possible we will interrupt the disarmament (process)," he added.

Meanwhile Ukraine expects to fulfil its obligations under the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty on reducing military strength by destroying one more tank Tuesday.

Russia Unable To Unilaterally Launch Missiles From Ukraine

LD3010201395 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1853 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, Oct 30 (Interfax - Ukraine) — Colonel Oleksandr Serdyuk, head of the Ukrainian Strategic Nuclear Forces' Administrative Center, said that Ukraine has taken "measures to make it impossible to launch a nuclear missile from Ukrainian territory by a unilateral decision of, say, the Russian president."

"Nuclear forces deployed on Ukrainian territory are under Ukraine's administrative control," Serdyuk told a briefing in Kiev Monday, commenting on the current situation when nuclear missiles operatively subordinated to the Command of the Russian Strategic Missile Troops remain on combat duty in Ukraine.

Speaking about the disarmament in Ukraine, Serdyuk said that all of the SS-24 intercontinental ballistic missiles and 80 out of the 130 SS-19 intercontinental ballistic missiles have been dismantled. According to Serdyuk, 90 percent of Ukraine's nuclear arsenal has been deactivated.

A total of 176 various missiles with nuclear warheads remained deployed in Ukraine in early 1994.

However, Serdyuk stressed that "the nuclear disarmament may be suspended if the West does not provide assistance."

According to him, Ukraine has received about $100 million from the United States and DM 700,000 from Germany in aid to continue with the disarmament. The U.S. plans to provide $350 million more for the purpose.

Black Sea Unit Splitup Schedule Said Unrealistic

MM3010155395 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 27 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Captain First Rank Vladimir Pasyakin: "The Black Sea Conundrum. The Order Has Been Given: Russia Is To Have the Regiment, the Other Side Is To Have the Equipment"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports of the forthcoming disbandment of the Black Sea Fleet's coastal forces division have elicited a complex reaction from the people of the Crimea, who saw the division as the guarantor of political stability on the peninsula. In addition, the military have their own problems, above all with regard to property and future service prospects.

In other words, who will get the famous combined formation's property, and what fate awaits the officers and warrant officers who served in it? I addressed these questions to Major General Vladimir Karpov, the division's commander.

"The commander in chief of the Russian Federation Navy has issued a directive ordering the disbandment of the combined formation," the general explained to me. "We are military people, and our task is to carry out orders. But all the same, I should say that the specified timetable is far from realistic..."

According to the combined formation's commander, even on the most modest estimates, it will take eight-10 months to carry out his instructions. So that strictly speaking, disbandment has not even started in the broad sense. Mostly because there is no final political decision or document regulating the practical division of the Black Sea Fleet as a whole. The division of the fleet is also "stalled" with regard to the details concerning the fleet's coastal forces.

For example, a tank regiment stationed in the settlement of Perevalnoye is to be transferred to the Ukrainian Armed Forces — together with the camp, armored equipment, and military property. The Yevpatoriya Coastal Defense Regiment will go to Russia. Commissions for the receipt and transfer of equipment and weaponry have been set up. But the Ukrainian side is not rushing to receive its "share." This is obviously connected with the problems of maintaining the combat readiness of the subunits. For this new establishments need to be opened under the corresponding structures, which, given the cuts in the Ukrainian Armed Forces, is extremely problematic.

Indeed, even the handover of weapons, from a purely technical point of view, is not an easy matter. In the opinion of Major General Karpov, all the weapons and ammunition need to be checked and counted. And the force has 1,000 units of armored equipment alone, as well as 12,000 weapons and 120 carloads of ammunition.

"In the end we will divide up the combat equipment and weaponry, whatever the complexity of the process," the combined unit's commander complains in conversation with me, "but what about the people? After all, you cannot hand them over according to an inventory. Individual conversations have been held in the units with every officer and warrant officer, and it was found that the overwhelming majority of them evince a desire to continue to serve in the Russian Federation Armed Forces. Of these, 154 officers would like to continue service in the Russian Black Sea Fleet, 18 in the Northern Fleet, two in the Baltic, seven in the Pacific Fleet, 72 in the Ground Forces, specifying a particular military district. All these detailed lists have been sent to the Black Sea Fleet coastal troops and circulated round the districts, but a final decision on the transfer of officers has not yet been made."

In connection with this the division has put forward an initiative: to set up a coastal defense brigade at the combined formation's base. But how does this fit in with the Black Sea Fleet's new image, and what will be the Ukrainian side's reaction?

Russian Duma Criticized For Not Subsidizing Sevastopol

WS3110095995 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 26 Oct 95 pp 1, 3

[Article by Volodymyr Prytula of the Crimean Independent Center for Political Research: "Zatulin Corrects Yeltsin, and Sevastopol Will Not Get Russian Rubles"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the Press Service of the Russian Federation State Duma Committee for CIS Matters and Ties With Compatriots, which reached Sevastopol recently, has almost brought the effect of an exploding bomb. The point, however, is not in the reaction to this statement in the city, which is the main base of the Black Sea Fleet [BSF] and the Ukrainian Navy, but in trends visible in the attitude of the Russian side to problems of the Black Sea Fleet and Sevastopol, as well as in their consequences for our state.

Taking into account the importance of this document, I will quote its main points: "On 5 October, Konstantin Zatulin, head of the Committee for CIS Matters and Ties With Compatriots, was addressed by envoys of the Sevastopol City Council... with a request to support its petition for earmarking 17.6 billion karbovantsi [K] from Russia's 1996 budget to subsidize the social infrastructure in Sevastopol." Representatives of the Hero City [Sevastopol] explained this request by the fact that their city is the base of the BSF, controlled by Moscow. However, K. Zatulin's answer was unambiguous: "... to categorically refuse any support for this appeal, since... any initiatives with Russian billions under current circumstances are impermissible. ... Until the conclusion of negotiations (on issues of the Black Sea Fleet — author), any voluntary obligation on the part of Russia to make payments to the budget of the city of Sevastopol, which is managed by Ukraine, is nothing but another attempt at subsidizing Ukraine's budget." The head of the Duma Committee for CIS Matters and Ties With Compatriots firmly spoke "against another injection into the Ukrainian economy," stating that "the Russian State Duma will reject cooperation with the Sevastopol authorities appointed by Ukraine."

Of course, the point here is not in the fact that the Sevastopol authorities, "appointed by Ukraine," were elected last year on democratic principles by all Sevastopol residents, including even BSF officers and warrant officers, who voted as Ukraine citizens while simultaneously holding the status of servicemen in the Russian Armed Forces. The main thing is that Konstantin Zatulin, one of the high-ranking officials in the Russian leadership, openly and officially cast doubt on the Sochi agreement on the BSF signed by the presidents of Ukraine and Russia, or, more precisely, on the clause providing for the joint financing of the social sphere of Sevastopol. This refers to the city where, aside from the seamen of the de facto Russian fleet and their families, over 60 percent of its residents are ethnic Russians, that is, those falling into the category of "compatriots."

However, ethnic motives were not the determining factor in the Sevastopol leaders' decision to send their representatives with hats in hand to Moscow. The figures made public at the beginning of November at a city council session testify to the fact that the Russian side not only owes a moral debt to Sevastopol, but also has quite specific material obligations. In particular, a draft document for a complex program of stabilization of the socioeconomic situation in the city, which was recently discussed by Sevastopol deputies, includes a statement that the BSF owes Sevastopol K677.7 billion for energy resources, while the debt to the city budget, according to the Sevastopol State Tax Inspectorate, exceeds K153.2 billion. It is also pointed out in this document that the city expenses connected with the location of BSF military facilities amount to K5.8 trillion 424 million,, while the lost possibilities for developing production and entrepreneurship in the region (in particular, tourism, sea freight shipments, housing construction, and agricultural production) are estimated at K6.1 trillion 737 million. Taking into account that the environmental damage done by the BSF on the territory of the city and in the inner bays amounts to K148 billion, the total maintenance cost of the BSF base, according to the authors of the above-mentioned document, cost this Black Sea city more than K12.1 trillion every year!

It is known that Sevastopol is a subsidized city; local taxes account for less than half the city budget. Hence, the costs connected with the deployment of the de facto foreign fleet on the territory of Sevastopol and in other regions of Ukraine are essentially covered by our state budget.

The figures given by the Press Center of the Ukrainian Navy not only confirm the above-mentioned, but also testify to the fact that the maintenance of the BSF is an economic burden for Ukraine: According to an analysis made by an interdepartmental commission of the Ukrainian Ministry of Environmental Protection, the yearly environmental damage done to the state amounts to $13.1 billion, while the total sum of compensation for damages, including the cost of disposal of its consequences, reaches $19.4 billion, which is nearly twice as much as the full cost of the Black Sea Fleet itself!

Naturally, not everything is clear in this problem. Official Kiev must take into account both political and economic realities. One should also expect that K. Zatulin is not the most influential representative of the neighboring state's leadership and that the Russian side will adhere to the adopted agreements on the division of the BSF. However, as we see, there are a lot of reasons to demand the withdrawal of the Russian part of the BSF from Ukrainian territory.

Ukrainian-Romanian Expert-Level Talks End 26 Oct

LD3010153395 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian
1250 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 30 October — Ionel Sherban, the second secretary at the Romanian embassy in Ukraine, told a UNIAR correspondent that a meeting of experts ended on 26 October. They had been working on searching for mutually acceptable formulas for the preamble and Article 2 of the general political treaty between Ukraine and Romania regarding the states' territorial integrity and the inviolability of the existing borders now and in the future. Referring to an official source, the Romanian diplomat said that the leaders of the Ukrainian and Romanian groups of experts said at the news conference following the meeting that another round of talks between Ukraine and Romania on preparing the general political treaty will take place soon.

Chilean President Meets Kuchma, Urges Closer Ties

LD3110100695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0746 GMT 31 Oct 95

[By Aleksandr Trushin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BUENOS AIRES, October 31 (Itar-Tass) — Chilean President Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle told visiting Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma that Chile was interested in the development of comprehensive relations with Ukraine. The two Presidents met at La Moneda palace on Monday, the first day of Kuchma's official two-day visit to this South American republic.

The Chilean president said after the meeting that their talks had been "fruitful" inasmuch as they facilitated further intensification of trade and economic relations between the two countries.

There is much room for expanding ties between the two countries as their potential by far exceeds extant bilateral business relations: in fact, only two Chilean companies have maintained trade relations with Kiev on a steady, regular basis, it transpired during the talks in Chile.

"We know very little about each other," President Kuchma said during his meeting with Chilean entrepreneurs and bankers on Monday and called for setting up joint enterprises and investing Chilean capital in the Ukrainian national economy.

To this end, the Ukrainian President signed an agreement with Chile on mutual support and protection of investments, and a memorandum about consultations between the foreign ministries of the two countries.

Earlier Kuchma visited Brazil and Argentina as part of his tour of South America.

Kiev, G-7 Financial Estimates Differ for Chernobyl Closure

LD3110114895 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
0940 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, [no date as received] — Notwithstanding the joint stance of Ukraine and the G-7 regarding finance for the nonprofit-making work linked to the closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power station through grants, and finance for profit-making work through credits, differences remain between the sides on the volumes of finance needed.

A UNIAN news agency correspondent learned at the information center of the Nuclear Regulation Administration of Ukraine's Ministry of Environment and Nuclear Safety that in accordance with the documents — which the G-7 passed to Ukraine prior to the beginning of talks between the sides on 1-2 November — credits from international financial organizations and Euratom [European Atomic Energy Community] could come to $1.8 trillion. Proceeding from these organizations' existing possibilities, grants could come to $500 million, of which $350 million would be for increasing nuclear safety and $70 million for reforming Ukrainian power engineering. According to the G-7 documents, Ukraine has to find $900 million itself. Thus, according to the G-7's current assessments, $3.2 trillion are needed to resolve the problem of the Chernobyl nuclear power station in all. Ukraine desires to receive grants of this very amount, while the total credits needed, according to Ukrainian experts' calculations, exceed $2.5 trillion.

National Affairs

Marchuk To Retain Premiership if Elected to Parliament

LD3010152895 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
1330 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Prime Minister Yevheniy Marchuk's decision to run for parliament in the 10 December by-election is no sensation because he has a constitutional right to do so, Petro Sheyko, chairman of the Supreme Council Commission for Regulations, Deputy Ethics, and Provision for Deputy Activities told UNIAN on 30 October.

According to Ukraine's active Constitution adopted in 1978, the prime minister is the only executive official allowed to retain a parliamentary seat. This rule remained in force under the constitutional treaty between the president and the Supreme Council.

Sheyko said his commission would continue to press for the withdrawal of parliamentary mandates from other deputies retaining government positions. He admitted, however, that the motion may run into obstacles as parliament would require a constitutional amendment to endorse it.

Marchuk Says Government Working With Parliament

LD3110103895 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service
in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukrainian Prime Minister Yevheniy Marchuk sees the results of the Cabinet of Ministers sitting held on Monday as the beginning of fruitful and constructive cooperation with parliament. In an interview with the INTERFAX-UKRAINE news agency he said: Our work has shown that a consolidated approach makes constructive work by the legislative and executive branches of power possible. Marchuk emphasized that the presence of commission leaders, members of the parliament presidium, and representatives from the president's administration at the government sitting shows that the decisions adopted were not only government ones.

Newly Appointed Justice Minister Interviewed

WS2610112895 Kiev INTELNEWS in English
0157 GMT 26 Oct 95

[Interview with newly appointed Justice Minister Serhiy Holovatyy by Volodymyr Katzman; place and date not given — "Special to IntelNews"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Although Serhiy Holovatyy's appointment as Justice Minister was quite predictable, the appointment itself raised lively comments in the Ukrainian mass media and the society.

[Katzman] Where do the rumors stem from that in one of their demands, the Ukrainian National Assembly hunger strikers suggested that you be appointed justice minister?

[Holovatyy] Actually, I am filled with indignation at the speculations around my appointment. I received an offer to take the position just some hours before my departure to Strasbourg. I told no one about the offer. When I came back to Kiev, I read newspapers and was surprised. They [papers] stated that Holovatyy would be appointed justice minister, annul the ministry resolution banning the UNA, and that the president fulfilled the first demand of the hunger strikers by having appointed Holovatyy. This is either non- professional journalism or somebody wants to sling some mud at me from the very beginning. It was probably a planned action to create tension on this question.

[Katzman] Do you mean the tension around you, or around the ministry?

[Holovatyy] I mean the tension around this problem. On Oct. 9, on the day that opened the year of law, a round table was supposed to take place to discuss the UNA's legal and political situation after the Justice Ministry's resolution. I agreed to participate in it. I came five minutes before it began. Having met nobody from the organizers, I said I had to go because the (Parliament) speaker (Oleksandr Moroz) had scheduled a meeting with leading Ukrainian lawyers for 6 p.m. Moroz, Deputy Prime Minister Vasyl Durdynets, Supreme Court chairman Vitaliy Boyko and I were supposed to speak at the meeting.

[Katzman] You are an experienced politician. How do you analyze the initiative of your opponents at the round table? Understanding your business that day and arranging the round table with such a pomp (it was announced on radio and television), did they purposely engineer a scandal?

[Holovatyy] No, they did not create a scandal.

[Katzman] Some say you have simply played them over.

[Holovatyy] I am not going to play. My mission is not to play but to fulfill the responsibilities of justice minister. And I do not reject participating in a future round table, but under the condition that the parliamentary human rights committee chairman will participate in it. I want it to be a real round table, not just a meeting of the justice minister with representatives of organizations who have questions for the ministry.

Anyway, we have to untangle this knot because it is also a partial fault of the Justice Ministry. The ministry registered the UNA, when all facts indicated that it need not be registered. On the other hand, the Justice Ministry is not an investigative body. Besides, the law does not say whether it should check the validity of documents. The law does not say which institution should check documents — the court or the Justice Ministry. And if the ministry workers made a mistake, how should we react in this situation? I pointed out one or two examples here while there are more of them, and all of them will be named at the round table. We will give the legal background of the situation, not particularly concerning the UNA, for the registration of a party, annulment of that registration and the ban on a party. What, when and how it should be done, and who should do it. In other words, all provisions, related to the realization of the people's right to assemble should be legally regulated.

[Katzman] So, in the situation with the UNA there are grounds to think that there were violations in the registration?

[Holovatyy] I am currently studying the subject and can tell there were violations. Some documents presented for registration were false.

[Katzman] One more political party — the Social-Democratic Party — recently had some problems with registration. Have you studied this situation? Moreover, former Justice Minister Vasiliy Onopenko is involved in the party.

[Holovatyy] I have a document from the SDP that explains all roots and the development of this problem. I have created a working group from the ministry workers who were not involved in the process, connected with the Human Rights Party or the Social-Democratic Party. They are studying the document. Strangely enough, we may face a situation similar to the UNA situation.

In other words, the UNA leadership should not take the decision of the Justice Ministry as a political action, as an act of political repression, though there might not be enough political purity in those measures. From the political side they [UNA] are not perfect either. I can show you the UNA statute, where one of the provisions does not correspond to the demands of registration. If

I had been the justice minister then, I would not have registered the UNA.

Now UNA is followed by SDP. Is there an analogy? There is! And I am convinced that some other party will go next.

I for myself as a leader of public associations experienced more than one process of registration in the Justice Ministry. For instance, I am the first president of the World Congress of Ukrainian Lawyers. It is an international organization formed three years ago. There was a constituent congress solemnly held in the Opera Theater, the president spoke, and guests gathered from the world through. And what do you think? Up until now the congress has not been registered in the Justice Ministry! When (Prime Minster) Yevhen Marchuk introduced me to (Justice Ministry) employees, I said, "Don't think, dear colleagues, that I am angry that you have not registered my organization."

[Katzman] By the way, why has it not been registered?

[Holovatyy] Some formal requirements were not fulfilled. The ministry was right. And, as a minister, I will press for observance of these requirements and register not a single organization if requirements are not fulfilled.

There is a purely practical problem: the problem of implementation and execution of laws. It is practice, based on which we will look for a way out. And we will correct mistakes — whether they were made by an administrative body, as the Justice Ministry is, or a judicial one, as the Kiev Starokyivskiy district People's Court is. Because it (the ministry) also committed actions which it should not have committed. And we will talk about the matter at the round table. We will also talk about those actions that should not have been committed by UNA. And also about allegations the Justice Ministry is innocent of concerning UNA. For instance, the ministry has not warned UNA about some actions that do not conform to the law on public associations and political parties (because they could have been warned long ago). Other political parties engaged in anti-state activity have not been warned either, and we will talk about this too!

Let us take the problem of regional parties. The Crimean parties — are they a problem of Ukrainian state security, national security? It is a political problem, but it is a juridical problem as well! How is the existence of regional parties settled in Ukraine? What is the Justice Ministry to do in each concrete situation. How should it react?

[Katzman] You are asking questions. Do you have answers?

[Holovatyy] There is a whole complex of problems which should be examined, and concrete mechanisms for their solution should be sought. First of all, gaps in the legislation should be eliminated and drawbacks that arise from these gaps must be removed.

[Katzman] Regarding the politicization of juridical problems, you have actually received a heavy legacy: the case of Zviahilskyy, the case of Bozhenar...

[Holovatyy] The Justice Ministry will be in no way connected with these cases. As far as Zviahilskyy is concerned, it is primarily a case of Parliament since Zviahilskyy is a deputy. The rest are matters for the Public Prosecutor's Office, but not for the Justice Ministry at any rate.

At the celebration in Ukrainian House, I said that I stood for change in the ministry's functions, most urgently that the politicization of justice would be impossible because drawing the Justice Ministry into any opposition would sooner or later wind up in transfer of the ministry to this or that side. And in this situation, the policy will win little, but justice will lose everything.

I am not tied to any party. I even left the public organizations that I headed. I am no longer the president of the Ukrainian Legal Foundation. Temporarily, this duty has been placed upon Chrystia Freeland, but this issue will be finally resolved by a meeting of the organization's founders. A congress of the Ukrainian Legal Experts Association was held on Oct. 10 at which I resigned from the organizational office. And now I am just a minister, a pure minister, and that's all. Well, also a (parliamentary) deputy.

[Katzman] But, anyway, this position of yours — is it a step in the career of a politician or a lawyer?

[Holovatyy] I think both.

Union Claims 500,000 Participated in United Action Day

LD3110103095

[FBIS Editorial Report] Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian at 0600 GMT on 31 October broadcasts a two-minute report in which it quotes Oleksandr Bondarchuk, head of the All-Ukrainian Union of Workers, speaking at a news conference on 30 October, saying that 500,000 people took part in the workers' united action day on 25 October, . Bondarchuk says the largest demonstrations were in Donetsk, Kharkov, Cherkassy, Sevastopol, and Dnepropetrovsk.

Economic Issues

Economy Minister Views GDP Drop, Inflation Rise

LD3010193195 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — The rate of reduction in gross domestic product [GDP], the rate of fall in production by the national economy, and the rate of increase in inflation exceeded those predicted over the first nine months of 1995, Ukrainian Finance Minister Vasyl Hureyev said at the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers meeting on 30 October.

According to him, one of the main reasons for the decline in production was the Ukrainian National Bank's tough monetary policy.

Vasyl Hureyev noted that, notwithstanding the reduction in the extraction of coal, oil, and gas and the production of electric power compared with the same period of 1994, wages of employees in the coal industry increased by 110 percent, in the oil extraction industry by 150 percent, in the oil refining industry by almost 300 percent, and in the electric power industry by 160 percent. According to him, most enterprises are increasing employees' incomes at the expense of their profits.

Vasyl Hureyev noted that almost three-quarters of industrial enterprises have reduced their volumes of production, with the greatest fall in production at light industry enterprises — 36 percent, in construction materials enterprises — 26.2 percent, and in machine-building enterprises — 25.9 percent.

He stressed that the gross grain harvest was 37.3 million tonnes which corresponds to the level of the actual harvest last year. THIS REPORT MAY

Finance Minister on Overcoming Predicted Budget Deficit

LD3010180795 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — The Ukrainian state budget deficit will be 355.6 trillion karbovantsi by the end of 1995, which is equal to 7.2 percent of the gross domestic product, Ukrainian Finance Minister Petro Hermanchuk said today at a Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers sitting.

According to Hermanchuk, it is proposed to increase income to the Ukrainian state budget to 76.6 trillion karbovantsi by the end of the year by searching for the necessary additional financial resources.

Petro Hermanchuk noted that it is envisaged that this will be done by, in particular, using Article 37 of the law of Ukraine, "On the Ukrainian state budget for 1995," on setting up a stabilization fund for the fuel and energy complex, which will make it possible to receive around an additional 30 trillion karbovantsi.

According to Petro Hermanchuk, it is also envisaged that 25 percent of amortization deductions for October-December 1995 from state enterprises and organizations engaging in all types of activity will be added to the budget, which would ensure revenue of 10.9 trillion karbovantsi to the budget.

It is planned to increase basic rates of income tax for enterprises by two percent, by three percent for exchanges and auctions, and by five percent for casinos and gambling businesses. According to the finance minister, this should bring an additional 8 trillion karbovantsi to the budget.

Kuchma Industrial Policy Adviser on Odessa Oil Terminal

WS3010133795 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 26 Oct 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "To Accelerate the Construction of the Terminal"

[FBIS Translated Text] **The Ukrainian press has recently published a number of articles on the problems connected with the financing and construction of an oil-transshipment complex (terminal) near the city of Odessa. We have asked Volodymyr Ryzhov, [industrial policy] adviser to the Ukrainian president, to clarify the situation with this facility, which is strategic for our economy.**

As a matter of fact, Volodymyr Leonidovych said, there are indeed a number of problems with the construction and financing of the terminal. Both the Ukrainian president and our country's Cabinet of Ministers are concerned over this situation. The situation that developed in 1994, when the Odessa Oblast Council suspended the construction, the unsatisfactory financing of the work from the state budget, and the insufficient organizational work of the State Committee for the Gas and Oil Industry and the Ukrnaftoterm joint stock company may delay the implementation of the government decision to put into operation the first part of the terminal.

Proceeding from geopolitical aspects and taking into account the fact that deliveries of Russian oil to Ukraine will inevitably decrease due to its declining extraction, the Ukrainian president has instructed the Cabinet of Ministers to examine the course of the construction of the oil-transshipment complex near Odessa at one of its next meetings, and develop a comprehensive concept of supplying Ukraine with oil for a long period of time.

Additionally, one should keep in mind that Europe's demand for oil and oil products is constantly increasing, and it requires a considerable amount of money to transport them from the Near East and the Persian Gulf. The majority of European countries are thus interested in inexpensive routes to deliver oil and new country- suppliers. The situation that has developed is strategically convenient for Ukraine: Once the Odessa oil terminal is put into operation, we will be able to earn money for oil by transporting it to Europe.

Among measures for accelerating the construction of the strategic facility, there is a proposal to give the main state project contractor the powers of a deputy minister to coordinate operations of different institutions and arrange precise work at the construction site. Experts from the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade are to supervise the foreign part of the project.

Debt Prompts Decision To Stop Turkmen Gas Supplies

WS3110105195 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 0735 GMT 31 Oct 95

[From the "Business News Weekly" feature No. 43, 23-29 September 1995]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On October 25 the Ukrainian government decided to reduce the daily rate of Turkmen natural gas imports to 5 million cubic meters, thus signifying Ukraine's refusal to accept further supplies of Turkmen gas.

There has been no immediate confirmation from official sources of the Ukrainian government having notified Turkmenistan about this decision.

The decision is the result of the Ukrainian government's deliberations on both external and internal payments for natural gas imports. Turkmenistan is to be formally notified of the decision on October 26.

The contractual daily quota of Turkmen natural gas supplies to Ukraine amounts to 42 million cu. m., though in actuality the quantity supplied daily averages 52 million cu. m.

The underlying reason for this decision is Ukraine's indebtedness to Turkmenistan, which has reached roughly 52 million dollars.

The state-run UkrResursy, which the Ukrainian government has authorized to repay the first semester's indebtedness and ensure payments for current supplies of Turkmen natural gas, has succeeded in repaying some 27 million dollars of the debt. This sum equals the amount stipulated for commodity coverage, according to Leonid Rossylnyy, UkrResursy chairman. So far, UkrResursy has failed to extinguish the remainder of the debt, which, under the parties' agreement, should be paid in hard currency.

The price for Turkmen natural gas meant for Ukrainian consumers averages 67 dollars per thousand cu. m.

Turkmenistan's natural gas supplies to Ukraine were at their peak in the first half of 1995, when Turkmen natural gas was priced at 50 dollars per 1,000 cu. m. in the first quarter and 55 dollars per 1,000 cu. m. in the second quarter. During this period, Turkmenistan delivered approximately 80 percent of the natural gas it had contracted to supply to Ukraine.

Ukraine's yearly quota of Turkmen natural gas is 25 b. cu. m., from which 11 billion cu. m. are supplied through government contracts with UkrResursy. Non-state-run companies have offered to import the remaining 14 b. cu. m.; however, no such deliveries have actually been made.

As experts believe, the situation is likely to prompt an increase in business activities of non-state-run natural gas importers.

Belarus

Aide Praises Outcome of Lukashenka's U.S. Visit

LD3010202195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1853 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, Oct 30 (Interfax-West) — The Belarusian and U.S. commissions, which are jointly investigating the death of two U.S. pilots in Belarusian air space on September 12, are to meet in Minsk on November 17-19.

The Belarusian President's Chief of Staff Mikhail Myasnikovich said that such an agreement had been reached during the recent seven-day visit of Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka to the U.S..

"The Belarusian president has decisively opened the doors to foreign investments in Belarus," Myasnikovich said with regard to Lukashenka's U.S. visit.

Myasnikovich said Lukashenka had met with U.S. bankers and businessmen. Myasnikovich named among the mutually beneficial projects discussed during the visit the plans for cooperation with the U.S. Detroit-Diesel company. The company wants to manufacture its products at a plant in Baranovichi, southwestern Belarus.

Myasnikovich said the creation of a line for putting together diesel engines from U.S. spare parts would allow Belarus in four years to meet 70 percent of the needs of the Minsk car and tractor factories and the BelAZ truck-maker in engines.

Myasnikovich said Lukashenka was of firm intention to guarantee tax privileges to U.S. and German investors interested in cooperation with Belarus. Myasnikovich said Lukashenka had instructed him to organize a meeting between the president and German businessmen in mid-November.

Report on Lukashenka, Chyhir Meetings With U.S. Team

WS3110091195 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0400 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 30 October Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka met with a U.S. interdepartmental delegation which arrived in our Republic on a two-day visit. The delegation is headed by James Collins, special adviser to the U.S. secretary of state for the newly independent states. During a two-hour conversation, various issues concerning relations between the two states were addressed. After the meeting, Mr. Collins briefly commented to journalists on the success of our president's visit to the United States and expressed hope for Belarus' development. During the meeting with the president, issues concerning cooperation in the area of defense and security were addressed. According to Mr. Collins, also discussed were the possibilities the Partnership for Peace program is opening for our Republic.

On the same day, James Collins and the U.S. delegation members were received by Belarusian Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir. Having praised the U.S. representatives for their country's constant assistance to Belarus concerning the granting of IMF loans and the aid stemming from the Nunn-Lugar bill and other programs, the prime minister, at the request of the U.S. side, described the current economic situation in our Republic.

Lukashenka Receives U.S. Delegation on 2-Day Visit

LD3010180295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1631 GMT 30 Oct 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Lukashenka received Monday an inter-departmental U.S. delegation, led by James Collins, the special advisor to the U.S. state Secretary for Commonwealth Affairs, which arrived in Belarus for a two-day working visit. The delegation also includes representatives of the State Department, Defense Department, Treasury Department, the Department of Commerce and the CIA.

The delegates will meet with Belarus Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir, leaders of the Belarusian Foreign Ministry, Chairman of the Security Council Vladimir Sheyman, leaders of the National bank of Belarus and representatives of international financial organizations working in Belarus.

Details of the delegation's talks with the president and prime minister will be given in the Presidential Bulletin on Tuesday.

Lukashenka's Foreign Policy Criticized

WS3010155795 Minsk BELORUSSKAYA DELOVAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Oct 95 p 3

[Report by Aleksandr Starikevich: "We Will Build Our Own, New Foreign Ministry" — first paragraph is BELORUSSKAYA DELOVAYA GAZETA introduction

[FBIS Translated Text] **Belarusian foreign policy became the talk of the town long ago. Its only permanent element is the stable friendship with Russia, while all the remaining elements are changing all the time. This occurs — not in the least — due to the fact that, according to some strange intuition, any**

and each individual in this country regards himself as a professional in international affairs.

Aleksandr Lukashenka left to conquer America last week. Until the last moment, no one could state precisely whether the president would go himself or send another person to justify recently committed sins. Many sins have been accumulated: The balloon incident alone threatens to place the country in a diplomatic abyss. Atonements for mistakes, however, are made in an unusual way: During his regular confession on the television screen, Alyaksandr Lukashenka stated that Belarusian Anti-Aircraft Forces bear no accountability for the incident. By the rules of logic, the incident took place through the fault of peaceful U.S. air balloonists who dared to fly over the neutral Belarusian state. In the long run, perhaps Aleksandr Lukashenka decided that he will go himself and smooth the impression from the killing of air balloonists.

If one considers that the primary merits of the Belarusian president lie in the sphere of creating conflicts, than in the sphere of their removal, one can imagine what success his UN mission will score. A sacrificial lamb in the person of Uladzimir Syanko — who fatalistically commented on the rumors of his dismissal at the recent news conference: "All of us are under God's will" — has been prepared for this scenario. But in addition to God, Uladzimir Lyaonavich is also subject to the will of the president who — based on definition — cannot be wrong. Consequently, the rumors about Syanko's dismissal that have been spread over the last six months have every chance of coming true when the Belarusian delegation comes back from its overseas visit.

By the way, among the members of this delegation there is another prominent diplomat — aside from the head of state and the foreign minister — Ivan Tsitsyankow, administrator of affairs in the Presidential Administration. Two reasons prove that it was thoughtless on the part of Alyaksandr Lukashenka to take the latter with him. Primarily, who will now report to the president about disorders in the Republic which take place during his absence? Due to the fact that no one fired at Lukashenka's "Lincoln" in the United States, there was no acute necessity to take his administrator of affairs — who was baptized by fire [allegations to the fact that Ivan Tsitsyankow and Lukashenka were in the same car that was attacked by unknown people during the presidential campaign in Belarus] — to the United States.

Before the trip, in the airport, the president told Belarusian television that his personal contacts will include both politicians and businessmen. Aleksandr Lukashenka added with pride that he will be able to meet with only one-fifth of those U.S. businessmen who were eager to see him. In general, one should treat the words of the Belarusian president according to the old Leninist principle: "You may trust someone, but you must check him." Nevertheless, this time I trust Aleksandr Lukashenka enthusiastically. I think that representatives of foreign business who visited us recently shared with their colleagues unforgettable impressions of their talks with the Belarusian president — who advised them to succeed by challenging bureaucrats. It is not in the tradition of American spectactators to miss such a show.

At the time, Uladzimir Zamyatalin — another "diplomat" — returned from his trip to Iraq. The Foreign Ministry has learned about his visit from journalists. Generally speaking, the great democrat Saddam Husayn asked Aleksandr Lukashenka and Vladimir Zhirinovskiy to personally come to a referendum on prolonging his term of office. The Belarusian president wisely rejected this proposal. But half a loaf is better than none: Even Belarusian experts in holding plebiscites could learn something from the Iraqi leader; for example, how to ask straightforward questions and score success (99.96 percent for Saddam Husayn cannot be compared with Aleksandr Lukashenka's 80 and some percent). Giving his blessing to Uladzimir Zamyatalin's visit, Aleksandr Lukashenka could not but understand that losses from this visit would exceed revenues. Nevertheless...

Not only state officials claim that they formulate Belarusian foreign policy. A regular "round table" — devoted to Russian-Belarusian relations — held under the umbrella of the National Center for Strategic Initiatives turned out to be noteworthy only due to the appearance of the leader of neighboring communists, Gennadiy Zyuganov. The purpose of his arrival in Minsk, however, was much more prosaic: Among Belarusian authorities, there are potential investors in the Russian leftist election campaign for parliamentary seats. As regards the future, the following form of such meetings could be proposed to their organizers: After the participants in a "round table" meeting have been specified, potential speakers compose their speeches and send them to those who are mentioned on the list of participants and to journalists. Due to the fact that official receptions are an obligatory component of political meetings, organizers send — as a supplement — the participants a share of food. The result will be the same, but less money will be spent.

Judging from everything, dilettantism will continue to bloom in the Belarusian foreign political sphere. Support for it does not balance losses: New Deputy Foreign Minister Ivan Antonovich cannot substitute Uladzimir Syanko, who will step down. Developments in the Belarusian Interior Ministry, however, have demonstrated that the presidential tactics are of a "losing-bargain" nature. All that is left to us is to watch this process.

Lukashenka's Policy in Power Agencies Viewed

WS3010151795 Minsk BELORUSSKAYA DELOVAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Oct 95 p 4

[Article by Syarhey Anisko: "We Are on the Eve of a Grandiose Upheaval"

[FBIS Translated Text] **The phrase pronounced by the famous character from the movie "Wedding in Malinovka" about the upcoming "grandiose upheaval" unintentionally crosses one's mind in connection with the recent developments in the power structures. Judging by all appearances, we may witness another act of the political tragicomedy.**

Let us recollect our recent past. If we were to use the "perestroika father's" [Gorbachev] words — "the process started" in the Belarusian Defense Ministry. The former commander of the Belarusian Military District [Anatoliy Kastenka], whom the Supreme Soviet accused of squandering military property for Russia's benefit in 1992, was forced to voluntarily give up his attempts to become defense minister. The tenure of Petr Chaus as defense minister turned out to be very short, primarily because he had no desire to follow the rules of backstage intrigues and "bow" to State Secretary Henadz Danilaw. Belarus's first general lieutenant scared [former Prime Minister] Kebich's retinue with his decisive actions aimed at solidifying the Belarusian spirit in the Army. As became clear later, this did not coincide with the "cabinet" concept of developing the Armed Forces.

Much has been said about the tenure of Defense Minister Pavel Kazlowski, including the notorious story about his son's wedding. However, the actual motives that prompted his resignation were excessive faithfulness to Kebich and refusal to accept Alyaksandr Lukashenka. Kazlowski displayed his sentiments with straightforwardness typical of a military man.

After Alyaksandr Lukashenka's election, Anatol Kastenka reappeared from political exile. After holding a cushy job in the CIS Headquarters, the former Belarusian Military District commander expressed a desire to serve the cause of developing the Belarusian Army, despite his poor health (I would like to remind our readers that Kastenka used to have a whole set of diseases and was relieved of his ministerial duties in connection with his health condition). The president personally advocated Kastenka's candidacy in front of the deputies and claimed that there was no alternative.

Things that look eternal very often turn out to be more than fragile. This is exactly what happened to Anatol Kastenka. It is no secret that he was "removed" by the Committee of State Security [KGB], military counterintelligence, to be more precise. We should pay tribute to military intelligence officers who were aware of the defense minister's closeness to the president and still took the risk of "throwing on the table" the truth about Lukashenka's tennis partner. The decision to dismiss yet another defense minister was not an easy one for Lukashenka, given that he was directly responsible for the misdeeds committed by his protege.

Current Defense Minister Leanid Maltsaw, whom many people believe to be an "unconstitutional minister," prefers to stay far from politics and close to test ranges. Keeping in mind the sad fates of his predecessors, he does not express his loyalty in the same servile manner. Indeed, once worldwide declarations have been made about the Army's depolitization, it is not worthwhile to draw "the man with a gun" into suspicious political games.

Anatol Kastenka's resignation was an alarm bell which gave grounds to believe that more changes would follow. And so it happened. The events surrounding personnel changes in the KGB and the Interior Ministry evoke thoughts which, in my subjective opinion, fit the phrase pronounced by the aforementioned movie character.

The Border Troops stand somewhat aloof in that process. These troops recently experienced the removal of Commander Yawhen Bacharow, an inspection by the OSAM (Separate Service for Active Measures), as well as a number of presidential inspections and, figuratively speaking, have only started to regain their senses after a severe knockout. Therefore, Vasil Markowkin, current chief of the Border Troops Main Directorate, also remembers the sad fate of his predecessor who became engaged in politics, and prefers to stay away from political high society and evade contacts with the press.

The implementation of the idea of appointing "the king's men" to power ministries probably entered its final stage after opposition deputies were removed from the Supreme Soviet's "oval hall" and arrests were made among Minsk subway trade union members. These actions, which met with a reaction both in Belarus and abroad, were carried out without much involvement of police or KGB officers. The more so since according to some reports, the KGB leadership even dared to demand that the president issue a written order to apply extraordinary measures to the strikers. On the other hand, it is absolutely clear why special services, with the exception of the "Alfa" unit and the presidential guards, took a wait-and-see stance. One cannot rule out that Yuryy Zakharenka and Uladzimir Yahoraw simply did not want to become scapegoats, as had often happened in the post-Soviet states. The KGB chairman was even less interested in taking risks, given that he will undoubtedly occupy a high post in the Supreme Soviet within the next month.

In addition, "power officials" feel offended by Alyaksandr Lukashenka whose edicts No. 349 and No. 350 dramatically reduced their privileges.

The president himself must have realized that his edicts were untimely, if not erroneous. However, with a firmness typical of him, he did not revoke his decision and tried to save face by introducing some kind of free public transportation tokens for law enforcement officers.

Neither did Lukashenka forget the private letter jointly written by Yuryy Zakharenka and Uladzimir Yahoraw. Ivan Tsitsyankow, too, was involved in the conflict between Zakharenka and Lukashenka. The administrator of presidential affairs, who had expropriated a police villa in a Minsk suburb shortly before the conflict, could not forgive the interior minister that the latter disclosed information to SVABODA. This is natural, for no one would be pleased to hear that Interior Troops servicemen swept the yard of the governmental residence, despite Alyaksandr Lukashenka's orders to mobilize all the forces to fight crime.

After that, it became clear that Yuryy Zakharenka's tenure was coming to an end. Nevertheless, the former minister — not the president — became the winner in the resignation affair. Zakharenka won the image of a chief upholding the rights of his subordinates. It is no wonder that officers of the Gomel Oblast Interior Ministry Directorate — not being afraid of possible consequences — nominated him candidate for the Supreme Soviet.

What can be said about the new appointments in the Interior Ministry? After they were announced, one could only feel sorry for the police and the ordinary people who become victims of the crime. We do not want to diminish the virtues of newly appointed Acting Interior Minister Viktar Sheyman or Deputy Ministers Ivan Yurkin and Uladzimir Ahalets. However, it is worth mentioning that none of those people has the experience of working in police structures. In light of this, they will hardly be able to introduce positive changes into the process of fighting organized crime. Certain rumors from the first sessions held in the Interior Ministry prove this fact. The following measures have been planned at those sessions: "suggestions to improve work should be voiced," "efforts should be made to improve the maintenance of operational records," "positive experience should be summarized."

One should not make hasty assumptions as to who is going to head the Interior Ministry, despite the stubborn rumors to the effect that the Security Council secretary of state [Sheyman] might become the police chief. Meanwhile, the purging process is gaining momentum, bringing back the worst memories of the past. The Interior Ministry press service publishes shockingly overt communiques about criminals in police uniforms disclosed within the last couple of days. It is clear whom these kinds of clumsy reports serve.

There is no doubt that the president is primarily concerned with the situation in the KGB, whose four chiefs have been replaced during the period of Belarus's sovereignty, and which remains Lukashenka's major headache. This is primarily due to the organization's possibilities of acquiring information. It is no coincidence that people say: "Those who control information control events." To all appearances, the administration has decided that if this privilege cannot be removed from the KGB, it should at least control the flow of information between the KGB and the house in Komsomolskaya Street. For this purpose, the administration needs someone "entirely devoted to the president." First Deputy KGB Chief Valery Kez is the most influential and respected person in the KGB. However, it has turned out that this general, who is a veteran of the Afghan War, has his own viewpoint on many processes and has no desire to play the role of a puppet. Probably for this reason he has not been promoted to general lieutenant as yet. According to KGB rumors, an edict on Kez's promotion has been signed but not announced. In this specific case the edict is a kind of lure: If Kez "keeps silent" the edict will be enacted. In the meantime, to avoid undesirable consequences a replacement was found for Ivan Yurkin, who had been transferred to the Interior Ministry. The appointment of Leonid Yerin to this post had been planned in an atmosphere of top secrecy. Even the KGB's chief officials had been unaware of these plans. They were faced with the fact when Viktor Sheyman introduced the young colonel at the KGB Board session urgently convened on 20 October.

One cannot deny that Yerin is a hard-working individual, given that moving to Belarus from Moscow, he had been receiving promotions every year, which caused envy on the part of his colleagues. Nevertheless, Yerin's recent appointment is undoubtedly the peak of his career. After he had headed the modest City of Moscow and Moscow Oblast Federal Security Service Department for [Fighting Crime on] Transportation, and had had 16 law enforcement officers under his supervision, all of a sudden he found himself as the neighboring state's Security Service deputy chief. Not everyone is capable of "covering such ground." However, one of the versions rejects the accidental nature of Yerin's arrival in the Belarusian KGB. In the line of duty Yerin had often met in Russia with the aforementioned Ivan Yurkin and Sheyman's "unofficial" deputy Syarhey Kantsavenka. Precisely due to their recommendations Yerin's candidacy emerged. This is just another version. According to our tradition, the actual picture will be clarified not earlier than after the resignation of the current state officials.

In parallel with appointing his men to the key posts in the power ministries — without making a fuss, and observing all the conspiracy rules — the reshaping of the Presidential Security Guard Service is being conducted intensively. One of its elements is the subordination of the former Interior Ministry State Security Guards Service, headed by Mikhail Tesovets, to Yury Barodzich [not further identified]. The staff of the Presidential Security Guards service is being expanded by attracting professionals from the KGB and the Interior Ministry. In fact, another special service is being set up to perform functions and tasks which are not quite clear. Or maybe these tasks are not clear for ordinary people.

One cannot discuss the problem of civil accord in Belarus without mentioning Alyaksandr Lukashenka's recent statement about the possibility of "introducing direct presidential rule in the state." All the sober-minded people wonder how constitutional these actions would be. The Constitutional Court cannot remain a passive observer. Its recent decisions met with the president's sensitive reaction. The relatively stable political situation in Belarus should not be swayed by any party's ill-considered actions, especially those involving law enforcement bodies. The conflict between the two branches of authority in Russia in 1993 is a vivid example.

Kazakhstan

Negative Impact of Karachaganak Gas Field Worries Deputies

LD3110114795 Almaty KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 27 Oct 95 p2

["The deputies are worried about Karachaganak"—KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA headline]

[FBIS Translated Text] West Kazakhstan region is "ill" with Karachaganak. Over the years, the pain has become chronic because the world's largest oil and gas condensate deposit has fallen short of the hopes pinned on it earlier. Instead of making a profit for the regional budget, as was planned a few years ago, the enterprise is having a negative impact on the region's economy and ecology.

This was the topic of a regular session of the regional maslikhat [council]. It was emphasized that all production, industrial, and economic activity involving the development of Karachaganak during the period following the experimental output exploitation (1985-1991) was carried out in accordance with the planned technological and economic decisions through centralized and focused funding under a specially adopted program. This made it possible to increase capacities for extracting and transporting the hydrocarbon raw material to refineries in Russia, to the advantage of Karachaganak. It was in 1991 that the volume of output reached its highest mark. A total of 4.2 billion cubic meters of gas and 4.4 million tonnes of oil and condensate were extracted from the 140 existing wells.

Over recent years, due to the break-up of the Soviet Union, the rupture of economic contacts, the nonfulfillment of contract obligations, the collapse of the credit and financial system, and the prevalent insolvency, output at the deposit has started to drop, and the deposit has gradually fallen into decline. There are only 21 wells operating at present. Gas extraction has dropped 2.5-fold, and that of gas condensate 2.7-fold.

As the maslikhat deputies noted, following an application from the Burlinskaya district administration, where the deposit is situated, a representative commission has examined the situation on site.

The well-known interim agreements signed between the government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the companies British Gas and Agip, and between the Russian Gazprom joint-stock company and the state holding company Kazakhgaz, are functioning this March in Almaty to little effect.

The development of the deposit is having a negative impact on the ecological situation in the region. Over 3,400 tonnes of harmful substances are being emitted into the atmosphere annually due to the lack of compressors for using the gases and because of gas leakages. The elected representatives of the people believe this is causing an upsurge in various types of illnesses among the local population.

The maslikhat session appealed to the government, requesting that a session of the republic's Cabinet of Ministers be held in West Kazakhstan to conduct a comprehensive study of and take an immediate decision on the problems of Karachaganak.

Migration of Mongolian Kazakhs Ends

LD3010145995 Almaty KARAVAN-BLITS in Russian 24 Oct 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] At the beginning of the 1990s, Mongolian Kazakhs began moving from neighboring Mongolia to the Kazakh steppe in search of a better life. More than 60,000 migrants hoped to link their fate with that of Kazakhstan. Some of them were lucky: They felt at home in the new place, and found jobs they liked. However, some of them began packing up and went back to Mongolia, having lost their faith in everything.

We asked Sharovyn Gungaadorj [name as published], ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Mongolia to the Republic of Kazakhstan to share his approach to the problem of the migrants.

[Correspondent] Mr. Gungaadorj, what are the basic reasons that drive the people back to Mongolia?

[Gungaadorj] First, the way of life and customs of the local inhabitants and the migrants differ too much. Many of them complain of being ostracized by native Kazakhs. But the main reason, of course, is the economic difficulties. People were sent to the countryside, where there is no work and no wages.

For this reason, the migration process from Mongolia has now finally ended. The uzun-kulak [long ear — nomad elders' grapevine] has reported the news of your difficulties to Mongolia.

[Correspondent] But Mongolia is also having difficult times.

[Gungaadorj] Yes, but there is an acute shortage of workers in all branches of industry and the economy in Mongolia. Moreover, we do not have unemployment in the countryside. Furthermore, Mongolia gives Kazakhs a chance to work at their time-honored task of livestock-breeding. The departure of the Kazakhs to Mongolia is purely the personal business of the people concerned. We do not prevent anybody who wants to reunite with his people and live in the land of his ancestors from doing so, even though mass emigration does no good to Mongolia, with its population of 2 million.

[Correspondent] You have met the migrants: What can you say about their mood today?

[Gungaadorj] The Government of Kazakhstan has done much to create normal living conditions for Mongolian Kazakhs; and we keep an attentive eye on them, as they are our citizens, after all. However, some are of course dissatisfied and offended. Moreover, there is a good Russian proverb: "It is better there, where we are not."

[Correspondent] How are inter-ethnic problems solved in Mongolia?

[Gungaadorj] There are Kazakh schools and clubs in areas of compact settlement of the peoples. The various ethnic groups have the opportunity to maintain their customs. I think you will have been convinced of this through talking to your compatriots from Mongolia.

[Correspondent] The agreement under which Mongolian Kazakhs live and work in Kazakhstan will expire next year. They will face the final choice of becoming Kazakh citizens or returning to Mongolia. Do you have any forecasts as to this?

[Gungaadorj] I think that the majority of the Kazakhs will stay here [in Kazakhstan]. People simply get tired of endlessly moving, and all that goes with it. Besides, in Mongolia privatization has been completed both in town and country. Now all livestock-farming is in private ownership. Those who lived in Kazakhstan during these years did not take part in the privatization, so on returning to Mongolia they will be no better off than when they started. Essentially, they will have no property there.

Turkmenistan

U.S. Company To Ship Turkmen Natural Gas to Pakistan

LD3010162495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1449 GMT 30 Oct 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Kurbatova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ashgabat, 30 Oct — The U.S. company Unocal and its traditional eastern partner, Delta Oil company from Saudi Arabia, have been granted the right to purchase Turkmen gas on the Turkmen-Afghan border and ship it to Pakistan. An agreement on this has recently been reached with a Turkmen government delegation in New York during the UN anniversary session, this was said in the Turkmen capital today by Unocal's president John Imle, prior to his departure for Islamabad.

Turkmenistan guarantees sales of 25 trillion of cubic feet [700bn cubic meters] of gas from the fields which are located in the southeast of the country, the U.S. businessman stressed. In their turn, Unocal and Delta Oil companies intend to organize daily shipments of up to 2 billion cubic meters of gas to Pakistan. The construction of the 1,300 km long gas pipeline across the Afghan territory will bring peace to this country and the region, the Unocal president says.

A protocol of intention on the construction of an oil pipeline along the same route has also been signed in New York, J. Imle stressed. It will be possible to ship not only Turkmen oil but also oil from the Central Asian part of the CIS and Russia's Siberian oil to the terminals in the Indian Ocean.

The Unocal's president said that the future gas pipeline would cost about $3 billion and the pipeline would cost $5 billion. These are long-term projects and the implementation of them will depend to a large extent on the implementation of political accords between the three states, who are equally interested in establshing stability in this region.

Tajik Opposition Leader Arrives for Talks

LD3010172295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1405 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUSHANBE, Oct 30 (Interfax) — One of the United Tajik opposition (OTO) leaders Akbar Turadzhonzod arrived in Ashgabat Monday for talks with Turkmenistan's leadership.

Turadzhonzod is to discuss with Turkmenistan's President Saparmurad Niyazov and Darko Shilovic, head of the U.N. mission in Tajikistan, ways of settling the Tajik conflict and the date and venue for the fifth round of inter-Tajik talks, Opposition spokesman for the Dushanbe-based mixed commission of Tajik government and OTO representatives Yusuf Khakimov told Interfax.

In an earlier interview with Interfax, Turadzhonzod reported that his delegation would familiarize Niyzov with opposition proposals on settlement in Tajikistan. On military problems, he noted, "we offer a number of compromise solutions."

He then said that the opposition wanted to hold similar meetings with all Central Asian leaders and had already sent its proposals to them. "If these leaders find our proposals on peace in Tajikistan feasible, we will ask them to exert influence on the Russian politicians, adopting decisions in regard to our republic," Turadzhonzod said. "The opposition believes that the key to the solution of the Tajik problem lies in Moscow," he added.

While Dushanbe has been insisting that the fifth round of talks should be held in Ashgabat, the opposition has been offering Vienna or Almaty as the venue for negotiations.

"We suggest that talks be started in Vienna or Almaty and then be continued in Ashgabat", Turadzhonzod noted. "However, Dushanbe does not want to compromise".

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Views Subway Incident, Elections

NC3010203095 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1550 GMT 29 Oct 95

["Text" of President Aliyev's appeal on subway incident in Baku issued on 29 October — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Esteemed citizens, sisters, and brothers: Our Republic's people are faced with a very tragic situation. An accident caused a fire on a passenger car between the Narimanov-Ulduz platforms in the Baku subway yesterday evening. The fire caused a very tragic situation. As soon as we were informed of the incident, the pertinent state bodies in Baku took action to deal with it and remove its consequences. All our resources have been mobilized and significant work has been done.

We have taken action and established the consequences of the incident. We have established a state commission with extraordinary powers to put the necessary measures into effect and resolve the problems. It has already begun to work.

Considering the serious situation, I have informed the people and declared a state of mourning on 29 and 30 October. The measures we have taken have helped us establish the serious nature of the incident. You are aware that 286 people died and 269 people were injured. They have been transferred to hospitals for medical treatment and many of them have been discharged. Some 69 people are receiving medical treatment in hospitals. I have been informed that they are not in serious condition.

A very tragic incident has occurred and our people are mourning. We have lost 286 citizens. Some 400 people have been rescued as a result of the measures taken. Three of those who tried to rescue them were killed. One of them was a cadet officer and the other two were civil servants.

I deeply regret the tragic incident and convey my condolences to their families and relatives. We mourn for each and every person who dies. We mourn very much the loss of so many of our citizens. [passage omitted]

Many tragic incidents have occurred during the past few years. We have lost many men. We have lost many men in order to protect Azerbaijan's territory and maintain the Republic's sovereignty against the occupationist forces. We have had many martyrs and we always cherish their memory. However, the tragic incident has been a serious blow to the people and the Republic. We have been shocked. Nevertheless, I am convinced that we will be able to recover from the serious situation. Azerbaijan and Armenia have put a complicated cease-fire agreement into effect. It has been in effect for 17 months. Our people live in peace. We want to establish durable peace. Undoubtedly, this tragic incident is a serious blow at such a time. Nevertheless, we will be patient. I appeal to the families of all the deceased. I pray to God that they will be patient. I want to inform them that I share their grief and hope they will be strong. I hope that the injured people will quickly recover. They must rest assured that all the necessary measures will be taken to help them recover. Aid will be given to them and to their families.

I want to appeal to all our people. I pray to God that they will be patient and strong. Azerbaijan's people have had serious difficulties during the past few years and we have successfully emerged from them. We have had martyrs and lost many people. We will emerge from this state of affairs as we have done in the past.

We are approaching the end of 1995. We have significant goals to achieve. I visited the United States several days ago. I attended the ceremonies held to mark the UN organization's 50th anniversary. I met heads of state and government leaders of many countries, including President Bill Clinton. I held talks with leading officials of international organizations and important financial centers. The talks I held were very useful in the effort to strengthen Azerbaijan's position in the international arena and improve the serious situation in Azerbaijan.

Resolving the complex problem between Azerbaijan and Armenia was discussed in my talks. We held talks on resolving the problem through peaceful negotiations. We have achieved very useful and productive results.

Considering Azerbaijan's serious social and economic situation, the international financial centers have adopted decisions to extend credits to our Republic. All this has been done to improve the serious situation in Azerbaijan.

I have said we have significant tasks. We want to fulfill them. Parliamentary elections will be held for the first time on 12 November. We have taken measures to ensure that the elections are held in accordance with democratic principles to establish a democratic parliament.

Our independent Republic's draft constitution has been drawn up and published to be debated by the people. A referendum will be held to approve it on 12 November. The debate on the constitution is continuing. Undoubtedly, the proposals the citizens will make will be considered and the draft will be finalized. It will be republished and put to a vote.

All these measures are very important to establish the state in Azerbaijan. In other words, we will elect our independent Republic's first democratic parliament and approve its first democratic constitution.

Undoubtedly, the tragic incident that has occurred on the eve of these important developments may affect our work. However, you must rest assured that we are steadfast. We will resolve this problem as we have resolved problems in the past.

You are aware that acts of sabotage were committed against the state in 1994 and 1995. Attempts were made to stage coups, carry out terrorist activities, and commit other serious crimes. We have stopped them and established social and political stability. Social and political stability exist in Azerbaijan at the present time. The citizens live in freedom. Protecting the rights of citizens during election preparations is of particular importance. The political parties enjoy freedom in their activities. The necessary conditions have been created to enable them to participate in the parliamentary elections. Undoubtedly, we are saddened by the subway incident at such a time. Nevertheless, it will not weaken our determination.

We will continue to work with determination to safeguard Azerbaijan's independence, reinstate our Republic's territorial integrity, and liberate our land. We will maintain our direction and policy. Considering the serious situation, we need unity and solidarity among the citizens. I hope the Republic's citizens will use the state of mourning as an opportunity to deeply consider the present and future of Azerbaijan. Everyone must realize that our objective is to safeguard Azerbaijan's independence, establish a legitimate and democratic state in the Republic, and improve the citizens' welfare. This must be the objective of all the people. Everyone must contribute toward the effort to achieve these exalted objectives. This is my appeal to the Republic's people on this day of mourning. I hope they will be strong. I want to reassure the people that we are capable of resolving all our problems. We have hope in the future, regardless of our grief and problems and the serious situation. We maintain an optimistic approach and we must maintain our optimism.

Considering the tragic incident, I convey my condolences to all the Republic's people. I embrace the families of the deceased and pray to God that they be patient. May God bless the souls of those who have died in the incident. I pray to God that our people will be patient and strong.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Reassures Ethnic Armenians on Turkish Railway

LD3110115395 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1100 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 31 Oct — An IPRINDA correspondent has reported that on 30 October, the Georgian head of state flew to southern Georgia on a working visit. He visited the towns of Akhaltsikhe and Akhalkalaki as well as mountain villages, where he met members of the local public.

The head of state informed them about the prospects of Georgia becoming a transit country linking Europe and Asia, and that Turkey has proposed building a 100-km railway through Akhalkalaki. However, this statement was met with a mixed reaction from the public, the majority of whom are citizens of Armenian nationality. Eduard Shevardnadze reassured them that the building of a transit railway would not be decided without the views of the local people being taken into account.

Eduard Shevardnadze also discussed the fight against crime and the issue of arresting Igor Giorgadze [fugitive ex-security chief], who, according to him, should be extradited to Georgia as a traitor and terrorist. The head of state spoke about Georgia's and Armenia's relations with Russia as well as Russia's role in the process of stabilization in these countries.

Deputy Prime Minister Comments on Georgian-Ossetian Talks

LD3010194495 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Political consultations on the settlement of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict are continuing in Vladikavkaz. Representatives of Georgia, Russia, North Ossetia, and the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe are participating in the talks.

Deputy Prime Minister Irakli Menagharishvili, head of the Georgian delegation, said that the Georgian leadership — Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of parliament and head of state — supported and welcomed the above meeting. He stressed the principle of Georgia's territorial integrity, within which Ossetia should be given a possibility for cultural development. Certain forces in the Tskhinvali region cherish the illusion that the unification of North Ossetia and the Tskhinvali region is possible. That will never happen.

Touching on the consultations in Vladikavkaz, Menagharishvili said it would be expedient to discuss the political status of former South Ossetia and its place in a single Georgian state, as well as the realization of an agreement reached at the talks and the technology of adopting a decision.

Nikolay Medvedev, deputy minister of the Russian Ministry of Cooperation with Member-States of the Commonwealth of Independent States, once again confirmed Russia's support of the principle of Georgia's territorial integrity. In his opinion, the main strategic aim is to define the political status.

The rest of the meeting was held behind closed doors.

Official Stresses Importance of Transporting Azeri Oil

LD3110124895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1051 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, Oct 31 (Interfax) — The International Oil Consortium's decision to transport Azeri oil across Georgia is "comparable only with the republic's entry into the U.N.", Vakhtang Rcheulishvili, deputy speaker of Georgia's parliament, declared in an interview with Interfax on Tuesday.

However, the project would have hardly been endorsed "if not for the trust of the west and the rest of the world in Georgia as a stable region and in Eduard Shevardnadze as a politician with international prestige."

Speaking about Russia's role in getting the decision adopted, Rcheulishvili noted that the Russian side in that case made a compromise, since the haulage of Azeri oil across Georgia was as essential as it was across Russia. Georgia would really be unable "to cope with such a huge oil transit" on its own, Rcheulishvili stressed.

In his opinion, the decision to transport Azeri oil across Georgia is just the start of an international program to build a Eurasian oil pipeline across Georgia and Azerbaijan.

Agreements have already been reached to haul Turkmen gas and millions of tonnes of Uzbek cargoes to Europe via Azerbaijan and Georgia.

In this situation, the source believes, "it is necessary to spare no effort to prevent even a slight destabilization in the country."

Abkhazia Premier: Russia Lifts Sea Blockade

LD3110114995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1131 GMT 31 Oct 95

[By Irina Schegoleva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SOCHI October 31 (Itar-Tass) — Russia has lifted its sea blockade of Abkhazia and "the port of Sukhumi is open", Abkhazian premier Gennadiy Gagulia told Tass Tuesday upon returning from Moscow where he held talks with Russian Border Service director Andrey Nikolayev.

The port of Sukhumi was sealed off by Russian coast guard ships after Moscow ordered Abkhazian vessels to stop flying the Russian flag.

Gagulia said only three ships belonging to "a Russian citizen" are not allowed to sail from Sukhumi so far. He did not elaborate.

The sea blockade was the main reason for the suspension of Georgian-Abkhazian talks.

Guards Prevent Terrorist Attack on Adzharian Leader

LD3010153195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1508 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BATUMI, Oct 30 (Interfax) — A terrorist act was prevented on Sunday evening against Aslan Abashidze, parliamentary chairman of the Adzharian Autonomous Republic (Georgia), a source in Adzharia's state security service told Interfax Monday.

He said that at about 10:15 p.m. local time, when Abashidze was returning to Batumi from Kobuleti after a meeting with potential voters, security guards found a hedgehog strip with pikes for piercing tyres near the road. Two men, one of them armed, were detained.

Criminal proceedings have been initiated. The incident is being investigated by Adzharia's state security service.

Lithuania

President Brazauskas Receives Estonian Parliament Speaker

LD3110113695 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 31 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas received Estonian Parliament Chairman Toomas Savi today. Savi is in Vilnius on an official visit.

Savi briefed the Lithuanian president on the current situation in Estonia and on the forming of a new cabinet, which is to be presented to parliament on 6 November. Brazauskas and Savi also discussed the balance of political forces in Lithuania and Estonia, presidential election procedures, and relations between the parliamentary majority and opposition in both countries.

The guest from Estonia was interested in the major difficulties that Lithuania is facing due to privatization. Brazauskas described the financing of the industry and the lack of working capital as the most acute problems. Speaking about privatization, Brazauskas said that it proceeded very [?smoothly] in Lithuania, with the largest part of the state property given away in exchange for investment checks, however, the state benefited very insignificantly in the process.

According to the presidential spokeswoman, Brazauskas and Savi also mentioned the meeting of presidents of all three Baltic countries, which is scheduled to take place in spring 1996 in Vilnius.

Savi delivered a speech at the siting of the Lithuanian Seimas today.

President Sees Dispute With Latvia as 'Misunderstanding'

WS3110083995 Tallinn BNS in English 1900 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, October 30, BNS — Lithuanian president Algirdas Brazauskas is inclined to regard the dispute between Lithuania and Latvia over economic zones and the delimitation of borders in the Baltic Sea as "a misunderstanding" and not a conflict.

In his traditional Monday interview over Lithuanian state radio, president Brazauskas said that he had met Latvian president Guntis Ulmanis in New York last week and had "very specific" discussions with him on this issue. He was also in continual contact by phone from New York with premier Adolfas Slezevicius and other officials concerning this problem.

According to Justas Paleckis, presidential advisor on foreign policy issues, the president's warm relations with his Latvian colleague are a guarantee that Latvia will refrain from "hasty actions" in respect to this dispute.

"Constant contacts between Riga and Vilnius have been maintained, and certain actions, which might have been taken at the time, were not taken (by the Latvians)," the presidential advisor told BNS.

Last week the Latvian administration continued negotiations with the American AMOCO and Swedish OPAB companies on drilling for oil at disputed sites in the Baltic sea. A contract was not signed last week, though Latvia does intend to sign one Tuesday.

Foreign Minister Signs Agreement on EU Commission

LD3010181695 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1700 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In Luxembourg today, Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys and EU Commissioner Hans van den Broek signed an agreement on setting up a legation of the EU Commission in Lithuania. The legation, which will carry out the functions of a diplomatic representation of the EU Commission in Lithuania, will start working in Vilnius in November or December.

At the meeting, Povilas Gylys told Hans van den Broek about the Lithuanian institutions responsible for the country's integration into Europe and activities aimed at bringing Lithuanian laws into line with European legislation. [passage omitted]

Diplomats Ratify Consular Accord With Russia

LD3010175995 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1700 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lithuanian Deputy Foreign Minister Albinas Januska, and Nikolay Obertyshev, Russian ambassador to Lithuanian, today exchanged documents ratifying a consular convention between the two countries. This document, signed in September 1992 in Moscow, will come into effect on 30 November. [passage omitted]

Slezevicius Addresses Democratic Labor Party Congress

LD3010180495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1631 GMT 30 Oct 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Although twelve months are still to go before the election campaign, "the opposition's fierce attacks on the government, and corruption charges brought against it" show that the election campaign has got underway, Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius told the congress of the ruling Democratic Labor Party which he chairs, in Vilnius Saturday.

He therefore said that preparations for parliamentary elections and the development of a strategy and tactics for a successful completion of the term in office, are the main tasks facing the party.

Speaking about the party's three-year term in office, he said that the achievement of political and economic stability by taking measures to curb inflation and maintaining the national currency's stable exchange rate, were its main results. He also said that over this period, the gross domestic product and real wages began to grow.

Slezevicius admitted that in order to ensure macroeconomic advances, the government had to take a number of unpopular measures: it increased communal services tariffs and toughened the tax discipline. During the year to go before elections, "more attention will be paid to the solution of social problems," he said.

Speaking about the Cabinet's success on the international scene, he said that an agreement on Lithuania's associated membership in the European Union wad signed last June. In his opinion, Lithuania must continue to pursue the policy of integration with Europe's economic and political organizations, and take part in the work to create a system of collective security in Europe.

He noted, however, that although associated membership in the European Union gives Lithuania "certain security guarantees", the need to get integrated with NATO is still there. He said the Lithuanian leaders would continue to accelerate Lithuania's rapprochement with NATO.

He reaffirmed the government's plans to broaden cooperation with the Baltic and Scandinavian countries, and with other states, as well.

Noting that a great deal has been done to normalize Lithuania's relations with Russia, he said that problems still existed in relations between the two countries. Moscow is in no hurry to return the Lithuanian citizens' savings, as well as historical values and archives documents, and is still to return to Vilnius its buildings in Paris and Rome, currently accommodating Russian organizations. The delimitation of the border with the Kaliningrad region proceeds with difficulties, he said.

The leaders of the Democratic Labor Party gave a press conference in Vilnius Sunday to highlight the results of the congress.

In answer to the Interfax question about prospects for his party, Slezevicius described them as good and said that his party remained one of the most authoritative political forces in the republic.

He also spoke about the congress's "constructive and business-like atmosphere", saying that the idea of replacements in the party leadership, imposed by the opposition, and forecasts concerning a possible split in the party ranks, was not supported. "The party's viability arouses no doubts," he said.

Speaking about the political situation in Lithuania, Slezevicius said that "economic development has been registered in Lithuania" and that "social tensions and confrontation are abating."

The congress's resolution on the political situation in Lithuania says that the state is gradually awakening, despite the political opponents' attempts to destabilize the situation in their own selfish interests, he said. The congress therefore urged the population of Lithuania "to assess the pursued policy soberly" and "not to yield to provocations."

Commenting on Lithuania's foreign policy, Slezevicius said that priority will be given to Lithuania's integration with the European Union and other organizations, including NATO.

He noted, at the same time, that a wide discussion should be initiated in society that would highlight the advantages of the integration processes and serious commitments deriving from them.

One of the main tasks facing the party is "membership in the Socialist International." "This meets our mutual interests," he said. He announced that the congress had approved amendments to the party program and charter, and instructed the leading bodies to adopt them within a month. The congress also adopted resolutions on the situation in the countryside, on the main provisions of the party's social policy for 1996, and on measures to combat corruption.

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